

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ONCOLOGY NURSING MONTH

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care and to recognize May as "Oncology Nursing Month." Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side-effects patients may experience. As anyone who has ever been treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial, and supportive care to patients and their families. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. In short, they are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease. People with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specializing in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. One in three women and one in two men will receive a diagnosis of cancer at some point in their lives, and one out of every four deaths in the United States results from cancer. Today, more than two-thirds of cancer cases strike people over the age of 65, and the number of Medicare beneficiaries is projected to double in the coming years. Last year approximately 138,680 people in California were diagnosed with cancer and another 55,960 lost their battles with this terrible disease.

Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration, and education in the field of oncology. ONS is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 35,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. I am pleased that ONS has 19 chapters in California which support oncology nurses in their efforts to provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout our state. I commend ONS and its members for their steadfast commitment to improving and ensuring access to quality cancer care for all people with cancer.

I am proud to support the goals and ideals ONS and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing oncology nurses for their communities not only in May, but year-round.

THE JOHN R. JUSTICE PROSECUTORS AND DEFENDERS INCENTIVE ACT OF 2007

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, a bill that will help local governments to recruit and retain talented young people to their district attorney and public defender offices.

Tuition has been rising steeply at law schools across the country, increasing more than 130 percent at private law schools since 1990. Unfortunately, scholarships and pay at part-time jobs have simply not kept up. As a result, students have been forced to take on additional debt in order to afford a legal education. By 2006, the average law student graduated with nearly \$80,000 of debt. Eighty thousand dollars would have bought a nice big house in Los Angeles in my parents' day!

But this debt load affects more than just the credit scores and disposable incomes of recent graduates. It affects their career choices. Young people bearing the burden of eighty and hundred thousand dollar debts must seek jobs that will provide enough income to allow them to make their loan payments as well as pay for transportation, rent, food, clothing, healthcare, and other necessities.

However, many government and public service jobs do not provide this level of pay to starting lawyers. Some locales can only afford to pay starting attorneys \$36,000 a year (even while the top New York law firms pay their starting attorneys \$140,000 or more). It's no surprise, then, that an entire generation of bright young people can't afford to consider the possibility of becoming a district attorney or a public defender.

That is why I am pleased to join the American Bar Association, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association in support of this important bill, which will provide student loan repayment assistance to borrowers who remain employed for at least 3 years as state or local criminal prosecutors or state, local, or federal public defenders.

We want and need the best and brightest to join these professions. Indeed, public trust in the justice system requires trust in the attorneys tasked with prosecuting and defending the accused. I am proud to support local and state attorneys in enforcing their laws and proud to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING THE WE THE PEOPLE TEAM FROM FINDLAY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored to highlight the outstanding achievements of a group of young scholars from my congressional district.

Last month, Findlay High School students Christina Back, Anthony Baratta, Kyle Collette, Meghan Gannon, Jessica Gephart, Bryant Hendriksen, Emily Janowiecki, Stephen Kostyo, Jaime Malloy, Debra McCaffrey, Jade Mummert, Will Olthouse, Nicholas Rackley, Michael Sears, Caroline Solis, Stephen Strigle, Rebecca Walter, and Matthew Wiseman represented the State of Ohio in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. They joined more than 1,200 students from across the country at this three-day competition in Washington.

Authorized by act of Congress, the We the People program allows high school students to develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our republic. Students testify at mock congressional hearings before a panel of experts, answering questions that test their understanding of the Constitution and their ability to apply that knowledge. Columnist David Broder has described the national competition as "the place to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

These 18 students continue a long tradition of success for Findlay High School in this competition. I commend them for their hard work—along with the efforts of their teacher Mark Dickman, who helped them prepare for the local, state, and national competitions. In addition, I salute the tireless work of Jared Reitz, the state coordinator for We the People, and district coordinator Libby Cupp.

Madam Speaker, all of Ohio can take great pride in the performance of these scholars, who are excellent role models for their peers. They are perfect examples of all that is right in our education system today, and are to be commended for a job well done.

TRADE AND LABOR

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in addressing the House and the American people regarding our trade policy and its effect on working families.

I'd like to thank my colleague, PHIL HARE, who organized this special order debate and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

who is an active member of the Congressional Labor and Working Families Caucus and the House Trade Working Group.

On May 10, the Administration and Members of this House announced a "New Policy on Trade."

It's about time. Democrats have been calling for a new direction in trade for years. Finally, the Administration appears to be listening to these calls for improved provisions to protect workers, their families, and the environment. I applaud the baby steps the Administration has taken. But the Administration needs to take giant leaps to improve on its current, failing approach to trade.

This new "deal" on trade covers changes to certain provisions of the Bush-negotiated Free Trade Agreements, FTAs, with Peru and Panama. Though we have seen outlines and summaries of this new "deal" on trade, we have not seen the final, legal text. Yet we have been asked to trust the Administration's promises and support this new "deal."

To those of us in Congress who have been working to champion the rights of American working families and begin a new approach to trade, the Administration's promises sound awfully familiar.

And when I say awful, I mean awful.

Each time this Administration has presented one of its trade schemes to Congress, it has promised us that the agreement includes all sorts of so-called "innovative" worker protections. We heard this over and over again during the debate on the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

But the fact is, no matter what label you use to describe them, the so-called labor protections in CAFTA were disappointingly weak. For example, under CAFTA, countries can down-grade their own labor laws, without facing any trade penalties or sanctions.

Allowing our partners in free trade deals to erode their own labor standards is unfair to our workers here at home, who can't possibly compete with workers who are denied basic workplace rights, who are paid two dollars a day, or who face forced labor—as our own State Department reported was the case in Oman.

CAFTA passed the House by the narrowest of margins at a time when it was Republican controlled. You would think that the Administration would have gotten the message that it needed to do better.

You would think the Administration would have realized that from then on, it should include more of us in the process and work out a different type of trade deal.

But unfortunately no one was listening. Since CAFTA, we've seen the same weak labor provisions in the Oman FTA.

And now we are asked to have faith that the Administration has really turned over a new leaf? That enforceable labor and environmental standards will be included in the text of the Peru and Panama agreements?

I have faith in many things, but not in these promises.

This Administration has lost my faith. It has lied too many times, about too many things: that Iraq posed an imminent danger, that the mission in Iraq was accomplished, that at least nine U.S. attorneys were fired because they were incompetent, that the air around ground zero was safe to breathe, that we have not been experiencing any change in our climate.

Perhaps more importantly, even if these agreements are the best written, fairest trade

agreements possible, so long as they rely on this Administration to enforce the labor and environmental standards they contain, they are not worth the paper they are written on.

This Administration has failed to protect workers here in the United States. The BP Texas City explosion, the Sago Mine Disaster, and the 9/11 first responders and clean-up workers who have developed serious breathing ailments—these are just the most notorious examples of this Administration's relinquishment of its responsibilities to provide even the most basic protection to workers: the right to work in a safe environment.

And that's not even mentioning the Administration's opposition to increasing the minimum wage, to protecting pensions and Social Security, and to ensuring that workers have the right to organize.

The Bush trade deal would give private corporations the ability to take action on their own to protect their rights. It would not, however, extend that same power to workers, who would have to rely on the Bush Administration to do that for them.

Trust this Administration to protect working American families? I don't think so. This new trade deal—like the previous bad deals—is a one-sided raw deal for workers.

We're continually told that NAFTA-style free trade will create more wealth in all the countries involved. Yet NAFTA-style free trade has meant the loss of jobs as those jobs have been shipped overseas.

Just as trickle-down economics proved to be a failure at lifting people out of poverty, the current free trade model has also proved to be a failure. Since NAFTA, the real income of working families has been on the decline or stagnant at best.

The middle class is getting squeezed from all directions. Downward pressure on wages is being accompanied by higher health care costs, higher gas prices, and higher education costs.

It's high time to develop a new trade policy that works for working families. American workers came out in droves in the last election, and they voted for a new majority. As part of the new majority, we owe it to them to stand with them for fair trade. To stand with them in creating a new America.

This is possible.

Fair trade is an option.

If we stand united for working Americans, we can deliver a real new deal on trade, not warmed over hash masquerading as caviar. You know the old saying about putting lipstick on a pig? Well, I smell bacon. I don't have to read the complete text of the deal to read between the lines.

The bottom line is this: minor adjustments to NAFTA-style deals are not good enough.

No more agreements based on the failed NAFTA model.

No more "Fast Track" trade negotiation authority.

We cannot give this Administration or future ones a blank check on trade deals that devastate our communities.

Trade can benefit our economy and the economies of our trading partners. We can negotiate deals that create new markets, bringing new jobs and new prosperity. We can achieve significant new foreign market access and reduce our trade deficit.

But to do so, we must embark on a new path. Not a slight detour from our current direction.

I challenge Republicans and Democrats, employers and employees, all those who care about shared prosperity in this country, and not just the rich getting richer, to work together to embark on this entirely new journey to fair trade.

COMMEMORATING AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise as a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and member of the House Azerbaijan Caucus, to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—a strong strategic partner and ally not only to the United States but also among the democratic nations of our world—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire in 1918—becoming the first ever Muslim democratic republic. Although the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic only lasted 2 short years, succumbing to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan made great strides in areas such as state building, education, and economic growth. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was even ahead of the United States in terms of granting suffrage to women; which didn't happen here in the U.S. until 1920.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 when Azerbaijanis began openly gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Tragically, January 1990 will forever be known to all Azerbaijanis as Black January, as these peaceful demonstrations were crushed by Soviet intervention at a cost of over a hundred and thirty civilians' lives.

Yet even in the face of such brutality Azerbaijanis never gave up their dream of freedom and independence and following the final collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan quickly declared its re-independence.

By August 30, 1991, a free Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, the Constitution was approved.

Having lived under Soviet rule, the people of Azerbaijan have a great appreciation of living in a democratic civil society and since its re-independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan has been an invaluable ally in the Global War on Terror; committing both their human resources and their leadership to the fight. Azerbaijan was among the first nations—Muslim and non-Muslim—to offer unconditional support to the United States in the war against terrorism; providing airspace and the use of its airports for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Today, Azerbaijan peacekeeping troops continue to serve with distinction in Kabul under the leadership of the International Security Assistance Force.

Azerbaijanis have also fought shoulder-to-shoulder with our troops in the second front in the war against terrorism, Iraq. In fact, Azerbaijan—in another first—was the first Muslim nation to join the Coalition and send troops to Iraq.

Finally, Azerbaijan has joined all 12 international conventions on counter-terrorism and continues to support regional cooperation on fighting terrorism through numerous local agreements as well as its participation in the activities of regional organizations such as NATO, the Organization for Security in Europe and others.

Azerbaijan has also assumed an important political role in the fight against terrorism and tyranny. As a founding member of the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development—whose namesake members include Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova—Azerbaijan has been a leading voice on enhanced regional economic cooperation through development of a Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor; and a facilitator for discussion on various levels of existing security problems, promoting conflict resolution and the elimination of other risks and threats, such as illegal trafficking and border security.

I believe that the past several years have proven that the people and government of Azerbaijan are committed to democracy. They have taken a bold and courageous stand for freedom and democracy by committing troops and resources to the fights in Afghanistan and Iraq. They have expended their political capital to bring different nations together in their region, and abroad, to peacefully organize and build, through democratic institutions and commerce, a safer world.

Madam Speaker, I would ask all of my colleagues to join me now to thank the people of Azerbaijan for their friendship, to congratulate them on the 89th Anniversary of Republic Day and to renew our commitment to further develop and strengthen the bonds between our two peoples.

AIR INDIA INQUIRY QUESTIONED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently a Canadian writer and editor named Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, wrote a detailed response to an article about the 1985 Air India bombings. As you know, those bombings continue to be controversial more than 20 years later and the Canadian government is launching yet another inquiry into the matter.

Dr. Sekhon's quite comprehensive letter, which was written in response to an Edmonton Sun article, is very detailed. It makes a very strong argument and brings up a lot of very important information on the case. Before I put it into the RECORD, I will attempt to summarize the highlights.

Dr. Sekhon points out that Indian diplomat Mani Shankar says that in 1984, the year before the bombing, the Indira Gandhi government in India commissioned him "to portray Sikhs as terrorists." This directive occurred before Operation Blue Star, the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar (the seat of Sikhism) and several other Sikh Gurdwaras around Punjab, in which 20,000 Sikhs, including over 100 Sikh youth ages 8 to 13, were killed and the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, was desecrated by being

shot with Indian Army bullets. The orders for that operation were given in January 1984, according to the Sikh Bulletin, October–November 1985. The Air India operation was part of that campaign. In addition, the newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to foment terrorist activity in Punjab and Kashmir.

Dr. Sekhon refers to the first hijacking of an Air India plane by two Brahmin brothers named Pandey to secure Indira Gandhi's release from jail. He notes the penetration of Canada by Indian intelligence in the 1980s.

The letter cites both Zuhair Kashmeri and Brian McAndrew's excellent book *Soft Target* and former Canadian Member of Parliament David Kilgour's book *Betrayal: The Spy That Canada Forgot*. Both show India's responsibility for the bombing. Kashmeri and McAndrew cite the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), which said, "if you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

Kilgour writes that a Canadian-Polish double agent was approached by an East German named Udo Ulbrecht, who was working with people affiliated with the Indian government, to participate in a second bombing, but he declined to be part of it and the plot never came off. Dr. Sekhon rightly asks why neither Kashmeri, McAndrew, nor Kilgour has been asked to testify in the current inquiry. He also requests that the Indian diplomatic and intelligence personnel who were declared persona non grata in Canada in the wake of the Air India bombing be summoned back to testify before the inquiry.

He notes the mass killings of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Assamese, Tamils, and other non-Brahmin minorities by the Indian government. Their effort to portray the Sikhs, especially those who speak out peacefully and democratically for an independent Khalistan, as terrorists is a pretext for this "ethnic cleansing."

He quotes my colleague, the gentleman from California, who said in this chamber that for Sikhs and Kashmiris, "India might as well be Nazi Germany." The late General Narinder Singh said that Punjab was a police state. This has been an extension of the India government's strategy that was outlined in a memo in 1947 in which India's first Home Minister V.B. Patel described the Sikhs as "a lawless people" and "a criminal tribe." In other words, the Indian government was trying to discredit and destroy the Sikhs almost from the moment of independence.

Madam Speaker, the time has come to stop our aid and trade with this repressive regime and to demand self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination, not an ongoing half-century effort to kill your minority citizens.

I would like to place Dr. Sekhon's letter into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

THE SIKH EDUCATIONAL TRUST,
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SIKH
AFFAIRS,

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, May 9, 2007.

Ret Air India Flight 182 (Toronto–Montreal–London–Delhi),

June, 23 1985: Enquiry of Justice John Major

DEAR SIR, My writing to you relates with some minor and major comments related to the subject, and also on "Air India's Shared Tragedy Lost in the 'SILOS' between two nations by George Abraham (The Edmonton Journal, 8th May, 2007)."

I would like to comment on Abraham's writing "Prime Minister (Brian) Mulroney had telephoned his condolences to his Indian counterpart, Rajiv Gandhi—an act that was based on a fundamental misunderstanding of who, exactly, had been victimized, and who, in fact, was to blame." Mr. Abraham seems to be in the grip of part of the problem. As a Canadian national and belonging to the Canadian Sikh community, it appears to me that 'telephoning to the prime minister of a country, which had betrayed Canada and the international community in 1974 (explosion of a nuclear device prepared from the by-product of a Candu reactor technology for peaceful and medical purposes) by the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada' was far more important than about 90 percent of the Canadian passengers of the ill-fated aircraft. It, certainly, is new information that has come out in Justice Major's enquiry. What a pity our Canadian prime minister, who put Rajiv Gandhi first rather than thinking and offering his condolences to the Canadian Sikhs and the victimized families. This act of Prime Minister Mulroney will never be forgotten by the Canadian Sikhs. Earlier, his predecessor, Charles Joseph Clark, had said to the journalists that "if you want more information about Sikhs, go and call these numbers (of the Indian Consulate Toronto and High Commission in Ottawa):" What an unacceptable act of the prime minister, who hands out the telephone numbers of a foreign mission to get information about Canadian Sikhs. Should we, the Canadian Sikhs who have been in Canada over a century, imply that our Canadian administration has no idea of its Sikh Canadians; or, a foreign mission in Canada has more information about the Canadian Sikhs, especially when the Indian Constitution 1950, Article 25, has eliminated the 'Sikh Identity and Sikh Faith'. The latter is one of the six major faiths of our world.

Does George Abraham know that Mani Shanker Iyer, an Indian diplomat, said, "In early 1984, to the hearing of all, mentioned that at the instance of Indira Gandhi, he was given an unpleasant job of portraying Sikhs as terrorists." A few days later, Iyer stated that, "against his wishes he had done the job?" This was before "Operation Blue Star, the orders for which had been delivered in January 1984" (The Sikh Bulletin, October–November 2005, p. 11; editor@sikhbulletin.com).

Based on the two previous enquiries and the present one which is going on, it appears to me that nothing extraordinary will come from these enquiries, because the major things which might yield substantial information and which might reveal the real cause of the 'Air India Explosion of Flight 182' will never find a place in the enquiry that is going on. Some of the points that, as I believe, have not been discussed so far, are summarized below:

1. Why Mr. Zuhair Kashmeri and Mr. Brian McAndrew, two Canadian journalists, who gave their views in their title, *Soft Target India's Intelligence Service and its Role in The Air India Disaster 1989* first ed. and 2005 second ed. ISBN 10:1-55028-904-7 and 13: 978-1-55028-904-6, have not been called to testify before the enquiry commission?

2. Why Hon. David Kilgour, former member of parliament, Speaker of the House of Commons, former Secretary of State for Asia and Africa, and the author of the title *BETRAYAL THE SPY CANADA ABANDONED* 1994 Prentice Hall Canada Inc., Scarborough, ON ISBN0-13-325697-9, the title that contained Chapter 9 and 10, A Bizarre Episode in Rome and A Battle For Canada, pp.129-163, has not been asked to testify? Hon. Kilgour writes "One day, while reading a German newspaper, I spotted the photograph and description of a wanted terrorist. I would have known that face anywhere. It was the man who had conducted the meeting in Rome, plotting to bomb some Air India flight. I was quite positive it was him; his name was Udo Ulbrecht or Albrecht, wanted for many terrorist attacks and kidnappings in West Germany and Western Europe. I was upset by the whole thing and decided I wanted out of West Germany as soon as I had done my time." In Hon. Kilgour's title, he further writes "He was greeted in English, heavily accented with German, and led into a larger room where a number of men were already seated and smoking. There were two Sikhs wearing traditional turbans, another pair who looked Italian, Paszkowski and the German, who chaired and greeted them in English as all of them spoke the language with differing levels of fluency. The German spoke of the need for international co-operation and how important the mission was for each of their respective governments. He stressed that the group must work closely together. "Some of the tasks," he said, "might appear strange or even incomprehensible to you. Don't worry about that. Let it be the concern of those who sent you here. Your role is to carry out orders to the letter without asking questions." Everyone sat quietly and listened intently. "The job at hand is, with the use of explosives, to blow up an Air India plane in Europe. Lives will be lost but we must not think about it . . . Each of you will be supplied with documents allowing you to move freely in Europe, weapons, explosives, money and detailed instructions. I will meet with each of you personally to supply you with all these. Wait for me and be prepared for action at any time."

3. Under the guise of 'Democracy', the Indian administrations of post-15th of August, 1947 era ((JL Nehru to Manmohan Singh) and before becoming the political masters of the British Empire later known as the British India Empire, the Brahmins/Hindus (neither a religion nor a culture; see Dalit Voice, Dalit Sahitya Academy, Bangalore, and other Sikh and non-Sikh academics), betrayed the international community and the Sikhs of Punjab, now the State of Punjab (under the occupation of the alleged Indian democracy, since the 15th of August, 1947). It must be noted that the Sikh Raj of monarch Ranjit Singh, 1799 to 14th March, 1849, was the first Secular and Sovereign country of South Asia. The Sikhs lost to the British Empire's forces led by General Gilbert on the 14th of March, 1849. As such, the "Struggle To Regain Their Lost Sovereignty, Independence and Political Power of the Sikhs began, by peaceful means taught by their 10 Masters/Gurus (from Guru Nanak Sahib to Guru Gobind Singh ji) right on the day they lost to the British Empire's forces." "The new territory of the British Empire remained 'status less' but on the 29th of March, 1849, the British agent made a proclamation that the newly conquered 'Sikh Raj' is 'annexed' but not 'amalgamated' to the British Empire for the 'administration purpose only'. It should be noted that the status of the Sovereign and Secular Sikh Raj of Monarch Ranjit Singh remained as "annexed" territory and 'not' the art of India under British Empire or the time British exit from India

on the 15th of August, 1947. It should also be noted that there did not exist the word 'India' in any dictionary or Encyclopedia of the English language until the British agent made the annexation of The Sikh Raj to the British Empire on the 29th of March, 1849. As such, the existence of the 'Indian nationality' until the 29th of March, 1849, was out of question. The Sikhs were 'never' Indian nationals, as evident from the Indian Constitution 1950, Article 25. The Constitution which Sikhs' elected representatives 'rejected' in its draft and final forms in the Indian parliament in 1948, the 26th of November, 1949, 1950 and more recently on the 6th of September, 1966. The Canadian news media, along with the international news media and major democratic administrations like the United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Australia, etc., never paid any attention on the "Sikhs' Struggle for Independence" for the reason only known to themselves. Volumes of books and tens of tons news dispatches have been made by the journalists virtually 'devoid' of the Sikhs' Struggle for Sovereignty and Sikhs' status in the Indian Constitution 1950 Article 25. which proclaimed the alleged Indian state as the Republic of India.

Under the umbrella of democracy (or Brahmins autocracy), India has killed more than 2.3 to 3.2 million Sikhs; over 500,000 Muslims in general; more than 100,000 Muslims of the Internationally Disputed Areas of Jammu and Kashmir; over 300,000 Christians; tens of thousands of Dalits; 15,000 Tamils, thousands of Assamese and other non-Brahmin, non-Hindu minorities, since 15th August, 1947. What kind of democracy in India is this which kills its own citizens? There are other democracies in our world, like the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and others. Has anyone of these countries killed its own citizen(s)? How many Brahmins, Hindus or pro-Brahmins India and its armed forces killed since its inception?

I would like to hear from the journalists like Madam Kim Bolan on the genocides of the Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Kashmiris and other non-Brahmin and non-Hindu minorities carried out by the Indian democracy? Does she have any information or has she written even a single word on India carrying out genocides of non-Brahmin and non-Hindus since the 15th of August, 1947? Or, else she loves writing against the Sikhs.

For Madam Kim Bolan and her national and international colleagues written specifically or generally on the 'fake hijacking' carried out by the RAW of India (they must examine the archives of the All India Radio, if they pretend to be unaware of the activities of the Indian personnel of RAW and other agencies).

The author was wondering if Madam Kim Bolan and her journalistic colleagues know that the 'first hijacking' of South Asia' was carried out by two 'Brahmin' brothers (the Pandey brothers), to secure the release of their Congress leader Indira Gandhi from a jail. Indira Gandhi awarded them, the Brahmins, with her Congress' nominations to the UP Legislative Assembly. These criminals were made the 'law makers'. When criminals are made the law makers intentionally, then what could be expected in a democratic country, so to speak?

Madam Kim Bolan and other journalists must read Congressman Dan Rohrabacher of California's remarks appeared in the United States Congressional Records of the House of Representatives that "For the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims and other non-Hindu minorities, India might as well be a Nazi Germany."

4. A community, which is less than 15 percent of the total population of India, i.e., the

Brahmins, Hindus and pro-Brahmins (3+12=15 percent), deceived and betrayed the Sikhs of the Sikh Raj of monarch Ranjit Singh, robbed them from their land (partitioned on the 15th of August, 1947) in the day light, along with the Sovereign people of states like Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad, Faridkot (now in Punjab), Bikaner (now in Rajasthan), Dalits (who are still used to remove the human waste from the households and public places of India), Adivaasis, etc.

5. The journalists and writers like Kim Bolan, George Abraham, Martin Collacott, Ian Mulgrew, Bharti Mukherjee, Clark Blaise, Bill Moyer, etc., are virtually devoid of the 'Sikhs' history from the Sikhs' point of view'. They are known as staunchly anti-Sikh writers and do not get along with the Canadian and/or American Sikhs, simply because they are 'devoid' of the Sikh history. Indeed, they are well known anti-Sikh writers. Why are they anti-Sikhs and write against the Sikhs, it is only known to them. They cannot exonerate themselves from the 'anti-Sikh' renowned journalists or writers for the reasons only known to them.

6. Madam Kim Bolan and other Canadian journalists, with the exception of well respected Zuhair Kashmeri and Brian McAndrew, never understood the Canadian Sikh psyche. Why is it so? Only Madam Kim Bolan, other journalists and one Narula of the Asia Watch may explain their position, if they so desire.

7. It goes without doubt that Indian intelligence penetrated Canada in 1980s. This was done to provide cover for the Indian administration's intended 'attack on the Sikhs' Darbar Sahib Complex (mistakenly known as the Golden Temple Complex), which includes the Supreme Seat of Sikh Polity, The Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar, in the name of a brutal Indian military "Operation Bluestar" of June, 1984. This was not only an 'undeclared' war on the Sikh Nation, Punjab, but it was carried out to 'Eliminate The Sikh Identity and The Sikh Faith'. One may ask the question did Indian administration succeed? The answer is 'No'; it failed miserably. Their penetration made the life of the Sikhs of Canada no less than a hell. Did anybody, especially the Canadian journalists, with two exceptions, pay any attention to Sikh nationals of Canada? Every Sikh, who is the follower of the Sikh religion, believes in the Canadian way of life, Canadian law, Canadian policy of multiculturalism provided by the administration of the Right Honourable Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Canadian values. Whereas, the Indian administration deliberately made the Sikhs as 'terrorists'; on the 10th of October, 1947, just 7-weeks post of the 15th of August, 1947; the Indian administration of JL Nehu and VB Patel and their man, Chandulal Trivedi in Punjab 'declared' the "Sikhs as lawless people" in a secret memo. The writer is citing only a few major points out of numerous.

8. Considering the penetration of Indian intelligence in 1980s, not only the RAW personnel (Research and Analysis Wing), but the Indian administration made use of Sikhs, especially Akalis like Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Harchand Longowal, Balwant Ramoowalia, Prakash Singh Badal, Balwant Singh, Dr Jagjit Singh Chohan (now deceased), Maj-Gen Jaswant Bhullar, M S Sidhu, Didar Singh Bains of the United States, Prabhu Dayal Singh, Harjinderpal Singh Nagra and Akalis (correspondence between R K Dhawan of 1, Safdarjang Road, New Delhi; the 30th of January—April 25, 1984; please see Chakravayuh Web of Indian Secularism by Gurtej Singh 2000 ISBN81-85815-14-3).

When democratic administrations employ their 'state intelligence' against their own citizens, then what is the guarantee that any

individual or state appointed commission will find a way to deliver its 'just' judgment?

I could write more but I should conclude my writing by elaborating that (i) the Indian missions' employees/intelligence workers, who have since been declared persona non grata or left Canada should be summoned back by the commission to question them. I have my doubts that the 'Diplomatic Immunity' may play its stumbling block's role and nothing constructive will come out from any commission; (ii) the Indian administrations' notoriousness is responsible for the Air India disaster of 1985; (iii) in fact, there should be an International Commission to explore and examine the terrorism, persecution, atrocities, human rights violations, and genocides committed by the democratic India. I am of the opinion that Sirdar Gurtej Singh, IAS & IPS (formerly), Professor of Sikhism and Editorial Advisor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs ISSN 1481-5435 may shed much needed light to the Commission of Justice John Major. All in all, Indian administrations have been responsible not only of the Air India Flight 182, but also of other humanitarian problems, such as Manorama of Assam, who was raped by the Indian Armed personnel in Assam (Assam situation discussed at the 5th United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland in March 2007).

Best wishes and warmest regards.

Sincerely,

AWATER SINGH SEKHON,

Managing Editor and Acting Editor in Chief.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed last night's rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 698, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act of 2007 and "aye" on H.R. 1425, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service in Odessa, Texas, as the "Staff Sergeant Marvin "Rex" Young Post Office Building."

ON MOTION TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I do not support the motion to table the Resolution regarding Representative MURTHA. My vote is not a statement of judgment on the allegations since I don't know the facts about what happened, and that's exactly the point. The issue deserved debate or a referral to the Ethics Committee. If Tom DeLay had been accused of threatening a Democrat on the House floor, I would expect the same. A discussion of a potential violation of House Rules is in order if we are going to be the most ethical and transparent Congress in history.

CONGRATULATING ROMAN YAVICH

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Roman Yavich of the University of Colorado, Boulder. Mr. Yavich is an economic development student and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Yavich and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

INDIAN POLICEMAN IN GOLDEN TEMPLE WITH A REVOLVER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, Indian policeman in temple with revolver is not the solution to a game of Clue, it's the latest outrage out of India. As we approach the 23rd anniversary of India's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple, the center of the Sikh culture and religion, an undercover Indian policeman was found carrying a revolver into the Golden Temple, where these kinds of weapons are prohibited. It was discovered when the gun fell out of his pocket. I shudder to think what he may have been intending to do with it.

The chief minister of Punjab, Parakash Singh Badal, did nothing about this outrage because he is in bed with the Indian Government and in opposition to his Sikh constituents. This desecration of the Golden Temple is outrageous and a reminder that India remains an occupying power in the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, which declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

The Council of Khalistan has published an open letter deploring this desecration of the Sikh nation's most sacred site. It notes that this is part of the Indian Government's ongoing effort to destroy the Sikh religion and demands that the jathedar of the Akal Takht, Joginder Singh Vedanti, censure chief Minister Badal for his part in allowing this to occur.

We cannot continue to support such actions. They violate the fundamental religious freedom that all free people enjoy. We must take strong action. Cutting off aid and trade until these kinds of atrocities end would be a good first step. And we should demand a free and fair vote in Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and wherever the people seek freedom on the subject of independence. Self-determination is the essence of democracy.

INDIAN POLICEMAN CAUGHT AT AKAL TAKHT SAHIB WITH REVOLVER

Just a few days ago, the Tribune of Chandigarh reported that an Indian police-

man was caught with a revolver at the Akal Takht Sahib. His revolver fell on the ground. He was manhandled by the Sikhs there.

No one is allowed to take firearms inside the Golden Temple. By doing so, this policeman violated the Maryada of the Golden Temple. The shameful Akali government has allowed undercover policemen to desecrate the Golden Temple. The Khalsa Panth condemns this with full force.

Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal should be removed from his position and the Akal Takht Jathedar should censure him for his sacrilege and violating the Rehat Maryada of the Akal Takht.

The Indian government is determined to destroy the Sikh religion by any and all means. They are trying to create sects in the Sikh religion, such as Dera Sucha (Jhutha) Sauda, Nirankari, Radswami, and other such cults. After Guru Gobind Singh there is no living guru, as the heads of these sects claim to be. That is contrary to the Sikh religion. It is blasphemous. These Deras are a cancer on the Sikh religion. They must not be allowed to spread their cancer and the violence that they bring among the Sikhs.

Guru Gobind Singh Sahib bestowed the guruship on the Guru Granth Sahib and for political decisions transferred power to the Panj Piaras (the Five Chosen Ones.) This desecration of Sikhism cannot be allowed to continue. It will only stop when we free Khalistan from Indian occupation.

Badal blames Captain Amarinder Singh for this situation. He cannot shirk his own responsibility. As Chief Minister, he is responsible for law and order. He should prosecute this baba and such cult leaders and close all Deras in Punjab. If he won't do it, the Khalsa Panth will and we will find new leaders who can serve the interests of the Khalsa Panth, not the Indian government.

Sikhs should have known better. In 1984, it was this Akali party and this Akali leadership of Badal, Tohra, and Longowal who invited the Indian army into the Golden Temple. If anyone attacks the Golden Temple, Sikhs can never forgive or forget it. The Congress Party attacked the Golden Temple; they should not be supported by the Khalsa Panth. It was the Akalis who invited them in. They should also be rejected. We need new Sikh leadership which can deliver a sovereign, independent Khalistan to the Sikh Nation.

Power resides in the Khalsa Panth. Sikhs in Punjab must shoulder their responsibility. Get rid of the present Akali leadership and establish a new Sikh leadership. If we do not, if we let this leadership linger, our misery is prolonged and the Sikh Nation suffers more. It is time to stand up and free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

In 1986, the Sarbat Khalsa was called. The Sarbat Khalsa formed the Panthic Committee under the leadership of Baba Gurcharan Singh Manochahal (who was later murdered by the Indian government.) It passed a resolution for Khalistan on April 29, 1986. The Panthic Committee formally declared independence on October 7, 1987. It established the Council of Khalistan at that time to serve as the government pro tempore of Khalistan and appointed this humble sewadar as President of the Council of Khalistan.

For the past 20 years, I have worked very hard, along with all the advisors and supporters of the Council of Khalistan, to achieve our objective of sovereignty for Khalistan. Any major event in Punjab since 1984 has been documented in the Congressional Record in statements by various Members of Congress. We thank them for their support for the independence of Khalistan. Congressional hearings were held in the U.S. Congress by Rep. Ben Blaz, Rep. Dan Burton,

and others on human-rights violations and the independence of Khalistan. Special orders of the U.S. Congress on human-rights violations and the independence of Khalistan have been conducted. The Indian government is trying to alter the Sikh history in Punjab since 1984. They will not succeed because it is preserved in the library of the U.S. Congress. It will lie there safely for a long time. Students of history will find the true story of what happened to the Sikh Nation since 1984.

Khalisa Ji, the time has come for Sikhs to unite and free Khalistan. Remember the words of Guru Gobind Singh, "I grant sovereignty to the humble Sikhs." Freedom is the birthright of all people and nations. It is also granted by our Gurus. The Indian government is so afraid that it is planting agents in Gurdwara committees and organizations that fight for Khalistan. It is creating Deras and planting agents in the Golden Temple to try to stoke violence. It is arresting Sikh activists for protesting a statue of the repressive, murderous Beant Singh, who was responsible for the murder of over 50,000 Sikhs and the secret cremation of their bodies by declaring them "unidentified", as well as the murders of Sardar Jaswant Singh Khaira, who exposed that brutal policy, and Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, or for making pro-Khalistani speeches and raising the flag of Khalistan. Beware of Sikh leaders who do the bidding of the Indian government.

Just the other day in the Southall Gurdwara in the United Kingdom, Sikh youth took control of the stage when the present management, which is under the control of the Indian Embassy, refused to do Ardas for Shaheed Bhai Kanwaljit Singh, who was killed by followers of the cult leader Ram Rahim when he went to confront them. We must replace these management committees with pro-Sikh, pro-Khalistani management.

Khalisa Ji, the time has come. Take responsibility and rise to the occasion. Work for the freedom of Khalistan so that the Sikh religion can flourish and the Sikh Nation can live with honor and dignity. Only then can the future of the Khalisa Panth be bright. Remember the words of the former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sahib, Professor Darshan Singh, that "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Let us show true Sikh spirit. We must rise up and free Khalistan now.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILLIAMSON-SODUS AIRPORT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Williamson-Sodus Airport. The airport's history dates back to May 9, 1957, when members of the Williamson Flying Club, Inc. purchased a half-mile parcel of land in the Town of Sodus.

The Williamson-Sodus Airport was an 1,800-foot runway that was seeded in July 1957. Over the years the runway was upgraded and is now a 3,800 ft. hard-surface asphalt runway with modern lighting and taxiways and is always under improvement. Operated by the Williamson Flying Club, Inc., the Williamson-Sodus Airport has tremendously grown to serve the various needs of the community.

One of the airport's functions is to serve as a "reliever" airport for the Greater Rochester area. The airport is also utilized by local industries as well as the United States Coast Guard.

On behalf of the citizens of the 25th Congressional District of New York, I congratulate the Williamson-Sodus Airport for its 50 years of operation and achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 385, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1425, the Staff Sergeant Marvin "Rex" Young Post Office Building, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING DARIA VAN TYNE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Daria Van Tyne of Vassar College. Ms. Van Tyne is a biology student and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Van Tyne and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the beginning of June marks the 23rd anniversary of India's military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, which is the seat of the Sikh religion. It occurred from June 3 through June 6, 1984. Many other Sikh Gurdwaras were attacked at the same time in what was known as Operation Blue Star, which killed over 20,000 Sikhs. That was the beginning of a genocide in which over 250,000 Sikhs were killed.

During the attack, young Sikh boys, ranging in age from 8 to 13 years old, were taken outside and shot to death. Other soldiers bravely shot bullets into the Sikh holy scriptures. As

Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who was killed in the attack, predicted, it laid the foundation for the liberation of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan.

This brutal attack was a desecration of the Sikh religion and culture and a bitter reminder that there is no place for Sikhs or other minorities in Hindu India. They are simply used for the greater glory of the Brahmins.

The Council of Khalistan, which will be leading a commemorative demonstration across from the White House on June 2, has published an excellent open letter on the massacre.

If we want to put an end to ongoing repression, Madam Speaker, we should support independence for all the nations of South Asia. We should go on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite, monitored, on the question of independence for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the nations of the subcontinent. We should stop trading with India and providing it aid until it respects the basic right to self-determination and all human rights for all its people, whether Brahmin or Dalit, whether Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Muslim, or whatever. We send India development aid, Madam Speaker, and it puts just 2 percent of its development budget to education and just 2 percent to health, but 25 percent to nuclear development! Remember that India began the nuclear escalation in South Asia.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

DEAR KHALSA PANTH: Next month marks the 23rd anniversary of the Indian government's brutal attack and desecration of Darbar Sahib, the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. Sikhs must never forget or forgive this atrocity. Remember that the Indian troops shot bullet holes into an original copy of the Guru Granth Sahib, written in the time of the Gurus. They took over 100 young Sikh boys, ages 8 to 13, out into the courtyard of the complex and asked them if they supported Khalistan. When they answered "Bole So Nihar", they were shot to death. Thirty seven (37) other Gurdwaras were simultaneously attacked. In all, more than 20,000 Sikhs were killed in that operation. This kind of brutality makes it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India.

Since that horrible four-day operation, which took place from June 3 through 6, 1984, over a quarter of a million Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State magistracy and human-rights groups. More than 52,000 are being held as political prisoners, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression. They are held without charge or trial, many since 1984. We demand the immediate release of all political prisoners and a full accounting for those who may have died in custody.

Instead, our highest institutions—the Golden Temple, the Punjab government, the Akali Dal, and others—remain under Indian control. Our homeland, Khalistan, remains under Indian occupation 20 years after declaring its independence from India. Half a million Indian troops continue to enforce the peace of the bayonet in Punjab, Khalistan.

Remember the words of Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, to America's National Public Radio: "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they are democratic, that they are secular, that they have nothing to do with a democracy, nothing to do with a secularism. They just kill Sikhs just to please the majority."

Sant Bhindranwale told us that the attack would "lay the foundation of Khalistan." Indeed, it did. On October 7, 1987, Khalistan declared its independence. We must use this

anniversary to rededicate ourselves to reclaiming that freedom that is our birthright.

In 1986, Harcharan Singh Longowal struck the Rajiv-Longowal Accord, in which India promised to return the capital city of Chandigarh, which Sikhs built, and the Punjabi-speaking areas of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, which were kept out of Punjab in 1965. Twenty-one years later, India has not kept that promise.

India has a long history of not keeping its promises. It promised the people of Kashmir a plebiscite on their status in 1948 and the vote has never been held. Nor has it kept its promises to the people of Nagaland. Instead, Nehru said that even if he had to put a soldier under every tree, he would never allow a free Nagaland. The Indian government has killed over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians elsewhere in the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Tens of thousands more of them continue to be held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Is that a democracy? These facts underline the necessity to free our homeland, Khalistan, now, and to support freedom for all the people of South Asia.

Remember the words of Guru Gobind Singh, "In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi." ("I grant sovereignty to the humble Sikhs.") Freedom is the birthright of all people and nations. It is also granted by our Gurus.

When I visited Pakistan in November for Guru Nanak's birthday, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaukat Aziz, offered to build a road from Kartarpur (where Guru Nanak left this world) to the border if India will build their portion. They even offered to build a fence if India wants one. With this road, Sikhs could go, and visit this holy site with no visa. The Akalis could build this road themselves, but they have not done it so far. The spineless Akalis continue to be lapdogs of Delhi. How could the Akalis join with the BJP (the political arm of the RSS) to form a government when the BJP is determined to destroy the Sikh religion by any and all means at their disposal? We must end Indian control of our government, society, and institutions. That control is what the Golden Temple attack was designed to cement. We must stand up and say no. Remember Maharajah Ranjit Singh, who led a powerful, secular Sikh state that was independent from 1765 to 1849. Let us have a new birth of freedom, in our homeland, Khalistan.

The Indian government is scared of the Sikh Nation's aspiration for freedom. Recently, it set off an incident in which Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh dressed up as Guru Gobind Singh and advertised in the newspaper, offering to give Amrit to anyone, a function reserved for the Panj Piaras after Guru Gobind Singh baptized them. In addition, it recently put up a statue of Beant Singh, former Chief Minister of Punjab, who presided over the killing of a majority of the 250,000-plus Sikhs who have been murdered. Simranjit Singh Mann and Wassan Singh Zaffarwal were arrested for peacefully protesting the statue. In 2005, 35 Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the flag of Khalistan. All these repressive acts are in the spirit of the Golden Temple attack and continue the repression. They are evidence that we must free Khalistan now.

Let us remind the Indian government that we have not forgotten the atrocities committed against the Khalsa panth at the Golden Temple and from then on. It is time to reclaim our freedom. India must act like the democracy it claims to be and grant a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Khalistan under international supervision. It must stop arresting Sikh activists for peaceful political

activity. And we must honor the spirits of Bhindranwale and all the others killed at the Golden Temple and the 37 other Gurdwaras by launching a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, once and for all. Until then, we will continue to suffer under India's brutal repression. Let's see to it that our Sikh brothers and sisters finally enjoy the glow of freedom. I ask Sikhs of all shades and political affiliations to join hands to free Khalistan. Remember the words of the former Jathedar of the akal Takht Sahib, Professor Darshan Singh, that "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President,
Council of Khalistan.

HONORING THE ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAZERS MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Onondaga Community College Lazers Lacrosse team, 2007 National Junior College Athletics Association Men's Lacrosse Champions. Onondaga Community College, OCC, defeated Nassau Community College by a score of 21-14, giving the school their second consecutive men's lacrosse national title.

The Lazers have an excellent track record in college lacrosse. For the past 7 consecutive years, the Lazers have won the Mid-State Athletic conference title, for the last 3 years they have been Region III Champions, and for the last 2 years they have been undefeated and national champions. The OCC Lazers Men's Lacrosse program has produced 23 All Americans, and 27 Lacrosse Coaches Association Academic All Americans. With their display of outstanding athleticism in going undefeated and winning national championships two seasons in a row, OCC has certainly established itself as one of the best junior college lacrosse teams in history.

On behalf of the entire 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise Head Coach Chuck Wilbur, and Assistant Coaches Mike Villano, Joe Villano, and Chris Brim on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Lazers take the field to defend their title in 2008.

No. 1, Brooks Robinson; No. 2, Jerome Thompson; No. 3, Dan Casciano; No. 4A/37H, Jeremy Thompson; No. 5, Holdon Vyse; No. 6, Lee Nanticoke; No. 7, Jack Redmond; No. 8, Kent Squires-Hill; No. 9, Nick Larocca; No. 10, Logan Kane; No. 11, Isaiah Kicknosway; No. 12, Thomas Anthis; No. 13, Andy Lamb; No. 14, Joe Taylor; No. 15, Lee Thomas; No. 16, Bill Walton; No. 17, Ross Bucktooth; No. 18, Sean Griffin; No. 19, Pat DiMatteo; No. 20, PJ Motondo; No. 21, Nick Kazimer; No. 22, Cody Jamieson; No. 23, Keith Tomazic; No. 24, Tyler Hill; No. 25, Cody Dummer; No. 26, Adam Rivers; No. 27, Kasey Fellows; No. 28, Josh Groth; No. 29, Steve Prosonic; No. 30, Kris Frier; No. 31, Wade Bucktooth; No. 32, Kyle Wenzel; No. 33, Padraic McKendry; No. 34, Pat Dwyer; No. 35, Brian Buckley; No. 36, Fred Bush; No. 38, Kyle Turbe; No. 39, James

Synowiez; No. 40, John Stanistreet; No. 41, Mike Fahey; No. 42, Spencer Mallia; No. 43, Greg Haney; No. 44, Sean McCauliffe; No. 45, Dustin Jacobsen; No. 48, Clinton Kennedy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 384, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 689, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING KAMLEH SHABAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kamleh Shaban of Doane College. Ms. Shaban is a public health student and a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Shaban and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

INDIA MUST STOP PROMOTING SECTARIAN VIOLENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, India is again promoting sectarian violence in pursuit of its continued control of the Sikhs and other minorities. A fake baba named Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, who is sponsored by the Indian government, created a sect called Dera Sacha Sauda, one of many sects set up to divide the Sikh people. He took out a newspaper ad in which he dressed up as Guru Gobind Singh and offered to perform the rite of Amrit, which not anyone can perform, for anyone who contacted him. Performing this rite is reserved for specific religious leaders.

This ad caused massive protests, as it was an insult to the Sikh religion. Those demonstrations turned violent. A man named Kanwaljit Singh was murdered by the followers of the Dera when he went there to confront them about Ram Rahim's behavior.

This marks an ongoing practice of promoting violence in the minority communities so as to divide and rule them. As they did in Gujarat a few years ago, the Hindu government set in motion bloodshed to keep the minority community—Muslims then, Sikhs now—divided.

Madam Speaker, this is reprehensible, unacceptable, and undemocratic. It is outrageous behavior for any government and it should not be supported by countries like ours. We must stop aid and trade with India and we must support freedom for Khalistan and the other nations seeking their freedom from Indian rule.

The Council of Khalistan put out a good press release condemning the Indian government's incitement of sectarian violence.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNS PROMOTION OF SECTARIAN VIOLENCE BY INDIA

WASHINGTON, DC, May 16, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan condemned the recent violence in Punjab, sparked by an advertisement in the newspaper by Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, the head of Dera Sacha Sauda, in which Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh dressed as Guru Gobind Singh and advertised that he would give Amrit to anyone who asked. This is reserved only for the Panj Piaras. This is an insult to the Sikh religion and clearly backed by the Indian government, said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for Khalistan's independence.

"There are no Deras or sects in the Sikh religion. There is only one Sikh religion and Sikh Nation," said Dr. Aulakh. "Fake Babas like Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh are part of the Indian government's ongoing effort to weaken the Sikh religion and prevent Sikhs from achieving freedom," he said.

Next month marks the anniversary of the Golden Temple massacre, Dr. Aulakh noted. During that attack, young boys ages 8 to 13 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh country. When they answered with the Sikh religious phrase "Bole So Nihal," they were shot to death. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, were shot full of bullet holes and burned by the Indian forces.

Former President Bill Clinton wrote in the foreword to Madeleine Albright's book that Indian forces were responsible for the massacre of 38 Sikhs in 2000 in the village of Chithisinghpura. Recently, two leading Sikh activists were arrested for peacefully protesting the construction of a statue to honor Beant Singh, the late Chief Minister who presided over the murder of tens of thousands of Sikhs. In 2005, 35 Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the flag of Khalistan. Sikh farmers are forced by the government to buy supplies and seeds for unaffordably high prices and forced to sell their crops well below market prices.

"These incidents show that we need to free our homeland, Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "Remember what former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh said: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'"

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. MASR report quotes the

Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "When Khalistan is free, we will have our own Ambassadors, our own representation in the UN and other international bodies, and our own leaders to keep this sort of thing from happening. We won't be at the mercy of the brutal Indian regime and its Hindu militant allies," he said. "Democracies don't commit genocide. India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 413, which recognizes the service of United States Merchant Marine Veterans. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

United States Merchant Mariners played a critical role during World War II, delivering troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other needed supplies to every theater of the war. The Merchant Mariners were the necessary link between the supplies that were manufactured in the U.S. and used overseas.

The Merchant Mariners took part in every invasion from Normandy to Okinawa and suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of the Armed Forces. Despite their valiant service, the U.S. Merchant Marines were not included in the 1944 G.I. Bill of Rights. In 1988, they were finally granted veteran status, but some portions of the G.I. Bill have never been made available to the Merchant Marines and the lost benefits can never be recouped.

In April I had the opportunity to deliver testimony to the Veterans Affairs Committee on behalf of my constituent, World War II Merchant Marine veteran Bruce Felknor, urging support of H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. I hope that the 110th Congress will enact that important legislation into law as well.

I'm so pleased that the Merchant Mariners are finally getting the respect and attention they deserve for their service and sacrifice to our country. For more than 40 years, their remarkable and distinguished service has gone by virtually unnoticed by our government and people.

Again, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 413.

TRIBUTE TO ASH GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ash Grove Christian Church in rural Windsor, IL, on the 175th anniversary of its founding. The church will be celebrating this historic occasion with a special service and program on June 3, 2007.

Ash Grove Christian church was founded in June of 1832 with John Storm Sr. as pastor. The church started with only 18 members. Ash Grove Christian Church is the oldest Christian Church in Shelby County and one of the oldest Christian churches in the entire State of Illinois.

Today, the congregation of Ash Grove Christian Church still holds traditional Sunday morning worship services with Jim Dona as pastor.

I am pleased to congratulate Ash Grove Christian Church on this blessed occasion. My prayers will be with the congregation as they celebrate this anniversary. May God continue to bless Ash Grove Christian Church.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN WRITES TO CANADIAN JUSTICE MINISTER ABOUT AIR INDIA INVESTIGATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, as you know, the government of Canada has undertaken another investigation into the 1985 Air India bombing. Recently, the Council of Khalistan wrote to the Canadian Justice Minister about that investigation.

The letter states that "the Indian government continues to try to blame Sikhs for this atrocity, despite the fact that Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted by a Canadian judge, who said that the witnesses against them were not credible." In the letter, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, notes that the Canadian Security Investigation Service (CSIS) said at the time, "if you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they were involved."

The Indian Consul General in Toronto, Mr. Surinder Malik, pulled his wife and daughter off the flight at the last minute. A friend of his who was a car dealer also cancelled his reservation suddenly. Mr. Malik called in a lot of information about the case before the incident was even public knowledge, including a tip to look for an "L. Singh" on the passenger manifest. "L. Singh" was the name under which one of the bombers held his tickets. The other was "M. Singh." Later, a man named Lal

Singh told the press that he was offered “two million dollars and settlement in a nice country” to give false testimony in the case—an offer that Mr. Singh declined. It seems that, as Zuhair Kashmeri and Brian McAndrew, the Canadian journalists who wrote the definitive book on the case, *Soft Target*, noted, “[Consul General] Malik knew more details about the two blasts than did the police investigators.” How did this Indian government official know so much so soon?

He also admitted that he fed information to the *Toronto Globe and Mail* to make a stronger case to blame the Sikhs for the bombing. This was part of a coordinated Indian government effort to paint the Sikh community as terrorists.

It is also worth noting that the Sikh group on whom India has placed the blame all these years is a group called Babbar Khalsa. It is heavily infiltrated by the Indian government. So by trying to blame Babbar Khalsa, the government is essentially taking the blame itself.

I recommend to all my colleagues that they read this informative letter.

This is just further proof, if any is needed, that India is a regime that will carry out acts of terror to promote its own political objectives. Remember that India has killed more than a quarter of a million Sikhs, according to the Punjab State Magistracy, and hold over 52,000 of them as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression. As I have asked before, why does a democracy need a Movement Against State Repression anyway? Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are held as political prisoners in India, and it has killed over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of other minorities as well.

Why should the American people and government support such a government, especially at a time when we are putting our young people on the front lines to fight against terrorism? The time has come to cut off our aid to India, end our trade with them, and put Congress on record in support of the freedom movements there. This is the way to peace, freedom, prosperity, and stability in South Asia, Madam Speaker.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, May 16, 2007.

Hon. ROBERT DOUGLAS NICHOLSON,
Justice Minister of Canada,
House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada.

DEAR MINISTER NICHOLSON: I am writing in regard to your new inquiry into the Air India Flight 182 bombing of 1985. I see no purpose for this ongoing inquiry. As you know, the Indian government continues to try to blame Sikhs for this atrocity, despite the fact that Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted by a Canadian judge, who said that the witnesses against them were “not credible.”

Shortly after the bombing occurred, two Canadian journalists, Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, wrote an excellent book on the case entitled *Soft Target*, which proves that the Indian government itself carried out the bombing. This finding is confirmed in a book by former Member of Parliament David Kilgour entitled *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned*. I urge you to call Mr. Kashmeri and Mr. McAndrew as witnesses in the inquiry.

Soft Target shows how the Indian regime bombed its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people, to justify further repression

against the Sikhs. The book quotes an investigator from the Canadian Security Investigation Service as saying, “If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved.”

Among many other things, they note that the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Mr. Surinder Malik (no relation to Ripudaman Singh Malik), called in a detailed description of the disaster just hours later when it took the Canadian investigators weeks to find that information. He told them that they should check the passenger manifest for an “L. Singh” because he was responsible—before there was any public knowledge of the bombing!

According to Wikipedia, on June 20, 1985, two days before the flight, “at 1910 GMT, a man paid for the two tickets with \$3,005 in cash at a CP ticket office in Vancouver. The names on the reservations were changed; ‘Jaswand Singh’ became ‘M. Singh’ and ‘Mohinderbel Singh’ became ‘L. Singh.’” Note that this is the same name that Consul General Malik told investigators to look for—“L. Singh.”

It would later come out in newspaper reports that a Sikh named Lal Singh told the press that he was offered “two million dollars and settlement in a nice country” by the Indian regime to give false testimony in the case.

Consul General Malik had also pulled his wife and daughter off the flight suddenly at the last minute, on the feeble excuse that the daughter had a paper for school. A friend of Consul General Malik’s who was a Car dealer also cancelled at the last minute.

According to Kashmeri and McAndrew, “Curiously, [Consul General] Malik knew more details about the two blasts than did the police investigators. . . . Malik said that while one of the suspects was booked to Japan, the other was booked to Toronto and onwards to Bombay. He also said that the two checked their bomb-laden bags but did not board the flight themselves. In sum, Malik had painted a scenario of the double sabotage operation that was a near perfect account of what the Mounties would take weeks to fathom.

[Consul General] Malik continually fed the *Globe* information pointing to Sikh terrorists as the source of the bombs. He was behind another story six days after the crash, this one headlined ‘Air-India pilot reported given parcel by Sikh.’” Kashmeri and McAndrew also wrote, “Malik pressured the *Globe* to publish this story, adding that it could be used to make a stronger case for blaming the Air-India and Narita bombings on the Babbar Khalsa leader. Malik also decry the Canadian system of justice for failing to come up with a quick solution to the bombings. ‘In India we would have had a confession by now. You people have too many civil and human-rights laws,’ he complained.”

The Sikh organization that the Indian government said was responsible, Babbar Khalsa, is and was then heavily infiltrated by Indian government operatives at very high levels of the organization. The main backer of the group had received a \$2 million loan from the State Bank of India just before the plane was attacked, according to *Soft Target*. The year after the bombing, three Indian consuls general were asked to leave the country.

In his book, Kilgour wrote that Canadian-Polish double agent Ryszard Paszkowski was approached to join a plot to carry out a second bombing. The people who approached Paszkowski were connected to the Indian government.

Yet the Indian government continues to apply pressure to find some Sikhs guilty of the bombing. I am sure that your inquiry will be conducted with fairness and justice. I hope that you will find the real culprits and put this matter to rest. The bombing was an Indian government operation from the beginning.

If there is anything I can do to assist you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

CONGRATULATING DR. SIGMUND ROTHSCHILD

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Dr. Sigmund Rothschild of the University of Colorado at Denver. Dr. Rothschild is a music scholar and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Dr. Rothschild and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MARY PAULINE CUNNINGHAM MCNEAL

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Pauline Cunningham McNeal, and pay tribute to her on her 100th birthday, July 9, 2007. Born in Madison County, OH, Mrs. McNeal now resides in London, OH. She will gather with her loved ones on July 8, 2007 to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Mrs. McNeal continues to impress her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even great-great grandchildren, with her active lifestyle that includes cooking, yard maintenance, and bingo four to six times a week. As a member of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, she seldom misses Sunday services, and participates in their annual chicken and noodle dinner. Mrs. McNeal is also well-known for her delicious lemon pies and her famous chicken pie casseroles.

Mrs. McNeal’s vibrant personality and active lifestyle make her an important part of our community. Mrs. McNeal serves as an inspiration and joy to those who know and enjoy her friendship and love. On this very special occasion, I salute this amazing woman for her long life, and her dedication to her family and her church.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the City of Berkley, in Oakland County, MI, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this week. This City's rich history and enduring perseverance serves as a shining example of the mettle of all Michiganders.

Before being established as a village in 1823, Berkley was part of a vast forest and swamp teeming with quicksand and other perils. Despite these hardships, settlers pressed on through the wilderness outside of Detroit to stake their claims in Berkley. By 1832, the burgeoning number of settlers arriving in Detroit warranted a stagecoach route that ran through Berkley on the way to Pontiac.

Berkley, along with many other communities, suffered through many adversities during the Great Depression. However, the village met those challenges head on and established a pay-as-you-go plan, spending only what it took in, in order to continue to govern responsibly. Many of the residents became active in local politics, and upon learning of the benefits of becoming a city, the discussion commenced.

After a year of debate and preparation, the residents of Berkley adopted a city charter, and elected a mayor and six commissioners. On May 23, 1932, now with a population of 6,000, the City of Berkley was established. With Detroit opening up its factories to produce materials at the onset of World War II, the residents of Berkley joined in the war effort. In 1946 Berkley had spent more for constructing new facilities and factories than any other city in Oakland County.

Madam Speaker, today Berkley is a vibrant community in Oakland County that is home to over 15,000 residents, a state-of-the-art library, and a bustling downtown district. I congratulate them on their 75th anniversary and wish the residents many more years of prosperity.

PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER ATTACKED FOR ANTI-SIKH BEHAVIOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently it has been discovered that the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, went and met with a Punjabi cult leader named Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, who claimed to be a baba and was recently in the news for dressing up as the last Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, and offering Amrit to anyone who called. Amrit is a very sacred ceremony in the Sikh religion and it cannot be done by just anyone. Ram Rahim also has murder and rape charges pending against him. Yet Mr. Badal went to him and bowed, seeking votes. Ironically, Ram Rahim came out for Mr. Badal's political opponents, the Congress Party.

As Chief Minister, one of Mr. Badal's chief responsibilities is maintaining law and order. Yet he seeks support from this fake religious leader instead of prosecuting him for the damage he has done to the Sikh community and to Punjab.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has issued a press release condemning Badal's activities. It shows that chief Minister is allied with the Indian government against the Sikh people. Remember that when Badal was chief Minister before, he presided over the most corrupt government in Punjab's history. They even renamed bribery "fee for service." His wife could tell the amount of money in a bag just by picking it up.

Only by freeing themselves of Indian rule will the Sikhs be able to rid themselves of this kind of anti-Sikh leadership. The U.S. government can help by stopping aid and trade with India until criminals such as Ram Rahim are prosecuted and all human rights are observed and by putting ourselves on record publicly in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagalim, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia in the form of a free and fair vote. Isn't that the democratic way? The people of Kashmir were promised a vote on their status in 1948. They're still waiting.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN DEPLORES ANTI-SIKH BEHAVIOR OF PARAKSH SINGH BADAL

WASHINGTON, DC, May 22, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan condemned the behavior of Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal. It has recently surfaced that before the Punjab elections, Badal and his son Sukhbir went to meet with Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, leader of the Dera Sacha Sauda cult which has brought about so much strife in Punjab. While there, they bowed their heads to Ram Rahim. A Sikh is not supposed to bow except to the Guru Granth Sahib. This is the moral degeneration of the Akali leadership.

Ironically, despite Badal's begging and pleading, Ram Rahim supported the Congress Party in the recent elections in Punjab. Now Badal is blaming his predecessor, Captain Amarinder Singh, for the problem. Badal didn't even get votes out of his shameful actions. Perhaps it's time he paid attention to the Sikhs who elected him rather than the anti-Sikh BJP, his coalition partner, and the leaders in Delhi.

Badal is the Chief Minister. As such, he is responsible for law and order. Yet he refused to prosecute this fraudulent baba pretending to be Guru Gobind Singh. There are pending charges of murder and rape against Ram Rahim. Why does Badal kowtow to him?

"There are no Deras or sects in the Sikh religion. There is only one Sikh religion and Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Fake Babas like Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh are part of the Indian government's ongoing effort to weaken the Sikh religion and prevent Sikhs from achieving freedom," he said. "Sikh leaders should not be dignifying them. Badal should be prosecuting this fraudulent baba for these despicable acts."

"Badal's conduct is shameful for a Sikh leader," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "This shameful conduct shows that Badal is under the complete control of the Indian government, rather than working for the Sikhs. We must free ourselves of corrupt, anti-Sikh

leaders like Badal and his friends by liberating Khalistan," he said. "Remember what former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh said: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'"

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"The Sikh masses must rise to the occasion and establish new leadership that works for the interest of the Khalsa Panth and abides by Sikh tradition," said Dr. Aulakh. "Badal and his son have betrayed the Sikh Rehat Maryada, Sikh principles, and Sikh tradition. Their leadership must be rejected for the interests of the Khalsa Panth. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht must censure him for violating the Sikh Rehat Maryada, betraying the Sikh Nation, and defaming the Sikh religion," he said. "Incidents like this test the resolve of the Sikh Nation. The Khalsa Panth will never allow the cult babas to dare to compare themselves with our revered Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, who sacrificed his whole family for the Chardi Kala of the Khalsa Panth," said Dr. Aulakh. "Remember Guru Gobind Singh's words: 'Sava lath se ek laraon, tabe nam Gobind Singh kahaon.' Also remember Guru's blessing, 'In grieb Sikh in ko deon patshahi.' Only a free Khalistan will put a stop to occurrences like this. We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. The time is now to free Khalistan."

[From the Panthic Weekly, May 17, 2007]

BADAL AND FAMILY ARE SACHA SAUDA PREMIS: CULT SPOKESMAN

Amritsar Sahib (KP)—At a news conference organized by the Sacha Sauda Cult, photographic evidence was released indicating that as recent as January of 2007, Shiromani Akali Dal's president Parkash Badal, his son Sukhbir Badal, and other Akalis met with the dehdahri-cult guru Ram-Rahim and asked for his blessings.

This announcement was made after a large Sikh conclave held at Takht Sri Damdama Sahib called upon the Sikh Nation to socially boycott the entire Sirsa cult, and demanded the Punjab and Haryana Governments to take stern action against the cult leader.

Panthic observers doubt any action would be taken by the Akal Takht Jathedars against the Badals, nor will the Punjab Government take action against the cult. Parkash Badal's cozy relationship between the Sauda leader and other similar cults is now a widely accepted fact.

The recent softening of the tone by Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti is an indication that he does not want to ruffle the

feathers of his Akali bosses. The recent call for a boycott was not what Vedanti wanted—as evidenced by his silence at the meeting—instead pressure from Jathedar Balwant Singh Nandgarh and the Sikh Sangat left him no other option. Observers predict ultimately it would be the Sikh Sangat that will rise up against the onslaught of derawaad that has been flourishing in Punjab under the Akali administration. Photos such as the above should be ample proof for the agitating Sikh Sangat which side of the fence the Akalis and their puppet Jathedars are really standing on.

HONORING COLONEL KATHLEEN M. SPENCER ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel Kathleen M. Spencer, a soldier who has served her country with honor and distinction. Colonel Spencer is retiring at the end of this month following 30 years in the United States military.

First commissioned in the U.S. Air Force on June 23, 1977, Colonel Kathleen M. Spencer received her B.S., cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts. Upon her entry into the Air Force, she was commissioned a munitions officer.

Colonel Spencer served honorably in 16 different assignments throughout the United States, including a 3-year stint in Germany. She will complete her military career as the Chief of Munitions at Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu, Hawaii.

During her career, Colonel Spencer served as a munitions maintenance officer and supervisor, as a munitions staff officer and an instructor to Squadron Officer School. She has also held multiple commander positions, served as a military assistant to the Executive Secretary in the Pentagon, as a chief of logistics, and deputy director.

Retiring with numerous decorations for her years of service, Colonel Spencer is especially proud of her Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, her Air Force Commendation medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, it is service members like Colonel Spencer who help make our military the finest fighting force in the world. This Congress congratulates Colonel Spencer on her retirement and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING STEPHEN E. MILLARD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Stephen E. Millard, who passed away on Saturday, May 19th, 2007, and to offer his family and friends my sympathies as they grieve and reflect on their time spent with him. In his passing, Steve leaves us all with occasion to consider our

own pursuits of integrity and honesty as we remember a life distinguished by both.

Steve Millard came to Colorado's Second Congressional District late in life and, at the age of 40, began a career in professional journalism with the Boulder Daily Camera. In a fairly quick manner Steve transitioned to the editorial staff of the paper and then to a well-suited perch as the editorial-page editor, which is perhaps the professional position for which he will be best remembered. Steve's editorial writing was remarkable not only for its deep well of knowledge and insight, but also for its adherence to logic and restraint. His arguments were the results of intellectual curiosity and clear thinking, not the pursuit of a political agenda. Steve chose to provoke thought with reason and forceful writing which, in a time of increased media and political sensationalism, is a sobering reminder of the public trust held in our journalists and public servants.

As his family reminds us in a May 22 eulogy in the Boulder Daily Camera, Steve Millard lived his life by those same terms, setting an example of integrity, honesty, and intellectual curiosity for those who had the pleasure of knowing him. For members of the Boulder community and readers of the Boulder Daily Camera, he reminds us of the importance of engaging in issues as an informed, thoughtful citizen. As his family and friends mourn their loss, I hope my colleagues will join me in praising Stephen Millard's example and recognizing his contribution to the public discourse.

CONGRATULATING CASEY LEEK

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Casey Leek. Ms. Leek is a student of anthropology and a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Leek and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ELENI P. KALISCH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the exceptional work of Eleni P. Kalisch at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It has come to my attention that she will be stepping down as assistant director of the Office of Congressional Affairs and I want to take this opportunity to recognize her leadership within the FBI, and dedication to her work with the Science-State-Justice-Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations subcommittee, which I chaired during the 109th Congress.

FBI Director Robert Mueller recently stated that Eleni "has been directly involved in every issue facing the FBI over the past five years. . ." and that "as an advocate for the FBI and its mission, Eleni's abilities and professionalism have earned her the respect of both lawmakers and colleagues." I could not agree more with Director Mueller. Eleni worked with the SSJC subcommittee not only to increase resources for the FBI, but to help transform the FBI from an organization focused on arresting criminals to one focused on terrorism prevention after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that forever changed America. Eleni's public service deserves to be recognized.

During her tenure as assistant director of Congressional Affairs the FBI received funding from Congress to establish more than 100 joint terrorism task forces; increase the number of translators by 82 percent, including a 284 percent increase in Arabic translators since FY 2001; enhance the FBI's capability to communicate classified information with the intelligence community and state and local law enforcement; increase the number of legal attaché offices from 44 to 57; increase training for new agents to include classes on terrorism investigate techniques; establish field intelligence groups in every field office, and hire thousands of new agents and analysts.

While I was chairman, we also conducted vigorous oversight of the FBI and Eleni was cooperative and essential in preparatory work to help facilitate FBI transformation hearings each year in addition to the annual budget hearings. Her professionalism and willingness to ensure that the committee had all appropriate information was superior. I also want to recognize Eleni's work with Congress to help enact the PATRIOT Act Reauthorization and Intelligence Reform acts.

In short, Eleni has been a great asset to the FBI, has served the director well, and been an excellent resource for Congress. I wish Eleni the best in her future endeavors and ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Eleni for her hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF TIMOTHY J. CRADDOCK, MARGUERITE GABRIELE, JESSICA E. SHAY, AND AVI M. WOLFSON AS THE RECIPIENTS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments of Timothy J. Craddock, Marguerite Gabriele, Jessica E. Shay, and Avi M. Wolfson as the recipients of this year's Undergraduate Research Fellowships at the University of Texas at Austin. They have been selected to receive scholarships to pursue research in their respective areas of interest.

The University of Texas in Austin offers financial support for students who undertake

scholarly research projects through Undergraduate Research Fellowships. Since its inception in 1996, the fellowship has remained committed to enriching academic experiences by providing 236 students with over \$200,000 over the past 10 years to support efforts in their area of study.

After competing in a rigorous application process that included resume submissions, itemized budget proposals, and faculty recommendations, these four outstanding students from the 32nd District of Texas were selected. They were chosen with the anticipation that their efforts would assist in future studies of the field and contribute to the researchers' disciplines. The high caliber of these students' achievements is truly impressive and for that I wish to acknowledge them to my congressional colleagues.

It is my honor to recognize these students. The people of the 32nd District of Texas are proud of their successes. I wish the recipients the best of luck in both present and future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOSE LUIS FLORES, SR., 1922–2007

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of a distinguished Texan and member of the San Antonio community, Mr. Jose Luis Flores, Sr. Mr. Flores passed away on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 at the age of 84. He was a friend, a husband, a father, and an inspiration to many in San Antonio, and he will be missed.

Mr. Flores's life was devoted to service to both his community and our country. He was an active parishioner of his church for 47 years, worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others by serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and courageously served our nation during the Second World War. For these reasons, we'll forever be grateful for all that he did on behalf of others, and San Antonio will deeply miss one of its native sons.

His life of service epitomizes the word "American." He gave back to his community and served his country to the best of his ability with the hope that he could better the lives of others. His life and legacy provide a great example for all that we as a Nation to strive to accomplish, and he will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

HONORING CITY TILE AND FLOOR COVERING COMPANY'S 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doug Young and City Tile and Floor Covering Company on its 50th anniversary. The Murfreesboro, Tennessee, store began with fewer than five staff and now has about 20 employees and 30 subcontractors.

Doug's father, Andrew Young, was a partner in the business and brought Doug in as a partner shortly before he passed away. In 1978, after college and a tour in the U.S. Army, Doug became the sole proprietor of the business while in his late 20s.

Today, Doug's son, Andrew; brother, Rule; and son-in-law, Jerry Clark, are future partners-in-training. Doug says the tremendous amount of trust that exists in having a family business is the way to go. That trust exists not only inside the business, but also for City Tile and Floor Covering Company customers, as well. Doug's family has provided any type of flooring you can imagine for current generations, their parents and grandparents.

Doug lived down the street from me as we were growing up, so I have had the opportunity to watch and admire as Doug has developed his business and raised his family. Doug, I wish you and your family business many more happy milestones.

CONGRATULATING AMY KUENKER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Amy Kuenker of the College of William and Mary. Ms. Kuenker is a teaching student and a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Kuenker and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO ANDREW R. RENEAU

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mr. Andrew Reneau, a highly-respected and deeply principled Milwaukee attorney and Family Court Commissioner. Mr. Reneau died on May 6, 2007, at the age of 90.

Andrew R. Reneau was one of two African Americans to graduate from the University of Wisconsin in 1942. Upon graduation, the only work he could find was as a metal chipper at the Allis Chalmers foundry. After sustaining a serious eye injury, Mr. Reneau went back to school. A coin toss determined whether Mr. Reneau should become a mortician or go to law school. In 1946, Andrew Reneau earned a law degree and was the only African American in his Marquette University graduating class.

Mr. Reneau began a successful private law practice serving people from all over the city, conversing both in Polish and Italian with his clients. In 1976, Reneau became an Assistant Family Court Commissioner. He was named the first African American Family Court Commissioner in 1978, serving until his retirement in 1995. Andrew Reneau was a NAACP chapter president, the first editor of The Globe newspaper, and was active with the Boy Scouts of America Council and the YMCA. He was a founding member of St. James United Methodist Church and involved in the National Conference of Christians and Jews. A proud graduate of UW and Marquette, he lectured on family law at both law schools.

The grandson of slaves, he was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi in 1916, the youngest of eight children. The family moved to Beloit, WI, when he was 2 seeking better opportunities. Due to ill health, Mr. Reneau was unable to attend grade school for several years thus delaying graduation from high school until age 21.

Mr. Reneau met the former Phyllis Cabell at a church convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, and they were married after he graduated from UW. Phyllis Reneau supported the family by working at a foundry while he attended law school. Phyllis Reneau passed away in 1995. Reneau family survivors include sons David, Paul, Joseph, and Peter; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, in Andrew Reneau's death Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements, I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

FREEDOM FOR NORMANDO HERNÁNDEZ GONZÁLEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform Congress about Normando Hernández González, a valiant prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Hernández, an independent journalist and the director of the Camagüey College of Independent Journalists in Cuba, has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of the Cuban totalitarian regime. Because he is a journalist who exposed the deplorable conditions, ruthless repression and failed policies of the totalitarian tyranny, Castro's thugs have continuously harassed Mr. Hernández. He has been detained and released miles from his home on various occasions and his telephone service has been cut off since June 15, 2002. In Cuba, men and women who seek truth or freedom are considered enemies of the state.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's heinous island wide crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Hernández was arrested by the tyranny. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag, for the crime of preparing reports, in which he attacked the health system, and the education provided in this country, questioned the justice system, tourism, culture, agriculture. Following his incarceration, Mr. Hernández has been kept in solitary confinement and allowed only

4 hours of sunlight a week. All communication with his family has been severely restricted and according to Yarai Reyes, his wife, he has been fed rotten food, refused all medical care and has been kept in a cell with no electricity.

When Mr. Hernández participated in a hunger strike to protest the deplorable prison conditions, he was transferred to another prison over 400 miles away from his family and loved ones. In this prison, he languishes in a rat and insect infected dungeon which he shares with common prisoners, many of which are considered dangerous and unstable. Mr. Hernández is routinely beaten and denied access to the outside world.

Madam Speaker, on April 30, 2007, the PEN American Center, which works to advance literature, defend free expression, and to foster international literary fellowship, named Mr. Hernández the recipient of its 2007 PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award honoring international literary figures that have been imprisoned or persecuted for defending the basic human right of expression. Let me be clear, Mr. Hernández is confined in an infernal dungeon for reporting truth instead of the mandated lies of the dictatorship in Cuba.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable and condemnable that just miles from our shores, a grotesque gangster regime keeps thousands behind bars simply for supporting freedom and democracy. I ask all members of this great Congress to demand with one, united, voice, the immediate release of Normando Hernández Gonzalez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE CITIZENS OF GREENSBURG, KANSAS

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sympathy of the citizens of Greensburg, Kansas. On May 4, 2007 a devastating tornado ripped through the community and destroyed 95 percent of the town. Ten lives were lost and 1,500 people were directly affected by this deadly terror. Greensburg was a quiet and charming town surrounded by pasture land lush and fertile. This town was preserved by generations of hardworking people who valued what they had and worked to keep it.

In the heartland, people know what it means to be a good neighbor. After this deadly tornado ripped through the community, there were countless examples, of strength, compassion and perseverance, traits we often see in Kansans. As people sifted through the shambles and rumble of what had been, at one time, their homes and personal belongings, wheat trucks and regular old four wheel drive pick-ups from neighboring towns drove in to lend a hand and a shoulder of comfort. It is heartwarming to witness how Kansans have come together in response to the Greensburg tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, my heart and prayers go out to all the citizens in Greensburg. Progress is being made and being made daily. They are picking up the pieces of their lives from what

was left from this horrible force of nature and are moving forward. The people of Greensburg obviously have tough days ahead, but I know with the resilient spirit they have demonstrated, they are up to the challenge and they will not be alone in overcoming it.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT GRADUATES OF PARAMUS' D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT EAST BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of East Brook Middle School. More than 140 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at East Brook Middle School, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Pankti Acharya, Omar Al-Rashdan, Danielle Ambrose, Elias Atie, Benjamin Audi, Amanda Aydin, Joseph Bacich, Matthew Barbara, Timothy Barkho, Adam Basner, Brianna Behrens, Christopher Billera, Lindsay Braverman, Vince Calupad, Eric Carminio, Tyler Casamenti, Alexa Cascione, Jessica Chakonis, Winnie Chau, Hae Chang Cheong, Daniel Choi, Emily Colasante, Matthew Criscione, Erica Cruz, Nicolas Datz, Dean Delucia, Michael DeSimone, Lillian Do, Timothy Dungan, Jeremiah Emmenue, Shannon English, Veronique Falkovich, Kenny Frohnapfel, Gia Fuerte, Cayla Gao, Kaitlyn Garcia, Miny Ge, Eric Giannantonio, Harlee Glock, Zoe Gnecco, Keisuke Goto, Tance Gozukucuk, Nicholas Gramuglia, Daniel Grisanti, Rebekah Guidroz, Aris Gungormez, Leila Hassak, Sabrina Helm, Erik Helstrom, Adriana Hemans, Kellie Heom, Darius House, Phillip Huffman, Yoon Jeong Hwang, Jaime Iacono, Suguru Ikeda, Alen Jo, Laila Jouejati, Erica Kato, Ji Soo Kim, Ah Young Kim, Victor Kim, Alexandra Kipp, Caroline Kordell, Theodore Koutros, Karen Kouyoumdjian, Anna Kuriakose, Richard Labarbiera, Kevin Lannigan, Stephanie Lasprilla, Paul Lawton, Sarah Lee, Jun Oh Lee, Monica Lehner, Andrew Licini, John Lukert, Aysia Luna, Melissa Lynch, Fabio Macias, Yu Maruyama, David Medvitz, Samuel Melendez, Paul Meyer, Matthew Miller, Koji Minoda, Edwin Montalvo, Bryan Mosquera, Heather Murphy, Stephen Oregon, Timothy Oechsner, Kevin Oh, Yula Oh, Daichi Omori, Rasha Orfali, Pamela Ospina, Abigail Ovadia, Kyrstie Pagunsan, Sylvia Pak, Michael Paladino, Thomas Palestina, Michelle Park, Dean Park, Mona Park, Sungho Park, Alex-

andra Pascual, Michael Passarelli, Kinjal Patel, Mitesh Patel, Gina Pecchinenda, Justin Peter, Kishen Pujara, Alejandra Ramirez, Elizabeth Reyes, Julia Reynolds, Colin Richardson, Jerry Rickelmann, III, Kathryn Roque, Gina Ruzhansky, Victoria Savastano, Stephen Scheideler, Gianna Scimeca, Bryan Shin, Olivia Sluka, Dominick Smith, Zachary Smith, Regina Smith, Alexis Stella, Rose Velli, Danielle Villa, Chelsea Virga, Thomas V. onborstel, Corinne Weinzierl, Alison Wolfer, Cindy Wu, Hosun Yoo, Andrew Yoon, Geena Yum, Ariana Zarour, Colette Zarour.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 22, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for six rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted: "no" on rollcall 390 on agreeing to the Price of Georgia amendment No. 9; "no" on rollcall 391 on agreeing to the Doolittle of California amendment No. 19; "no" on rollcall 392 on agreeing to the Hensarling of Texas amendment No. 30; "no" on rollcall 393 on agreeing to the Neugebauer of Texas amendment; "yea" on rollcall 394 on agreeing to the Neugebauer of Texas amendment No. 4; "no" on rollcall 395 on motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 1427.

IN MEMORY OF DR. BENEDICT K. ZOBRIST

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Dr. Benedict K. Zobrist, the former director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library.

Dr. Zobrist was born in Moline, Illinois, on August 21, 1921, son of Benedict and Lila A. Colson Zobrist. He graduated from Moline High School in 1939 and went on to attend Augustana College, but left his studies to join the United States Army in 1942. After serving in World War II and upon discharge from active duty, he returned to complete his college studies. It was at Augustana College that he met Donna Anderson, his future wife. Benedict graduated in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in history and began graduate school at Stanford University. However, he returned to the Midwest to be closer to Donna and on October 23, 1948, they were united in marriage.

Dr. Zobrist resumed his studies at Northwestern University, earning both a master's degree (1948) and a doctor of philosophy degree (1953) in history. After completing his education, Dr. Zobrist joined the staff of Augustana College, where he became a full-time faculty member in 1960. In 1962, he won a Fulbright Fellowship and studied at Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan. He also pursued advanced studies at the East Asia Institute at Columbia University in New York in 1962–63.

Dr. Zobrist moved to Missouri in 1969 to join the staff of the Truman Library in Independence; he became director shortly thereafter. He worked diligently to expand the collections of the library, traveling from coast to coast to meet with members of the Truman administration, as well as other significant figures of that period. Zobrist expanded the work of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, the not-for-profit foundation associated with the library. He went on to charter a course for the expansion of the Institute's education efforts and its support of the library's operations within the National Archive system. Dr. Zobrist was most proud of instituting "Truman Week", a week long annual celebration held around President Truman's May 8th birthday.

Dr. Zobrist maintained his affiliation with the United States Army as a reservist, and retired as lieutenant colonel. He spent many summers on active duty with the Office of the Chief of Military History in Washington, DC.; he also served as a faculty member at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, and the Army Intelligence School, Fort Bragg.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to Donna Anderson Zobrist and their three sons: Karl, Mark, and Erik.

CONGRATULATING SHANA KHADER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDI

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Shana Khader of Occidental College. Ms. Khader is a teaching student and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Khader and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INCOME-DEPENDENT EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing of the Income-Dependent Education Assistance (IDEA) Act of 2007. This legislation would provide a new consolidation option for federal Stafford student loan borrowers with an improved repayment schedule through direct IRS collection of payments, along with other new protections for borrowers and taxpayers.

I believe that the IDEA Act will address the oft-overlooked side of federal student loan assistance: repayment. For over four decades, most of the discussion regarding federal student loans has primarily focused on making ever-increasing amounts of money available to students to keep up with the rising costs of college tuition.

However, providing students with larger loans to attend college leads to another, more complex challenge after graduation. How should students be expected to repay these taxpayer-funded loans? This is an area that has received relatively little attention until recently. With students graduating with ever-increasing debt loads, averaging over \$18,000 this year and projected to continue to rise, students are finding it increasingly difficult to make loan payments on time and in full.

Unfortunately, little has been done by way of providing more flexible repayment options for borrowers after graduation. Traditionally it has been expected that the borrower will pay the amortized loan over a standard period, usually 10 years, with the same repayment amount on day one as on the last day. However, this model of repayment fails to take into account that students often face periods of significant unemployment or underemployment during the first years after leaving college.

As of now, for the most part, the only options available to borrowers are to request a period of forbearance or slip into default, which is bad for both borrower and taxpayers. We simply cannot keep providing more and more money for education if graduates then enter the workforce saddled with payments they can't afford.

While there have been some attempts to provide more diverse repayment options, such as the income-contingent loan repayment program available through Direct Lending that has been in existence for over a decade, borrowers have failed to adopt them, usually due to a lack of information or current program limitations. The bottom line is that Congress needs to develop better repayment alternatives for federal student loan borrowers, especially as students continue to take out larger and larger loans in coming years.

I believe the IDEA Act does just that. This legislation would allow any Stafford loan borrower the ability to consolidate into a direct IDEA loan with a repayment schedule that corresponds to the borrower's income once in repayment. This new schedule requires regular payments; however, it ensures that such payments reflect the borrowers' capacity to repay under their current income status. This feature would be particularly useful for those pursuing lower-income, public-service careers. It also would help relieve some of the stress that borrowers face during periods of unemployment or underemployment following graduation.

Another critical component of this legislation is the direct collection of payments from the borrower through IRS withholdings. By incorporating the IRS directly as the collection entity, the borrower's income is automatically calculated into the repayment system and reduces the odds of fraud or abuse on the part of the borrower or the collection agency. Furthermore, direct IRS collection would simplify the process for borrowers and reduce their paperwork burden as the agency would already have the necessary information on file and in place for processing the payment amounts and schedules. Finally, the IDEA Act stipulates

that borrowers that go into default and have exhausted all relief from the loan holder would automatically be consolidated into IDEA loans in order to help them get their payments back on track and avoid costly defaults. Thus the taxpayers' investment will be protected from the damaging effects of borrower default, which currently affects 5.1 percent of federal student loans each year.

Madam Speaker, the IDEA Act is an innovative solution to the growing problem of unmanageable debt loads for students. Students would be able to borrow what they need, up to the current Stafford limits, and later consolidate into IDEA loans knowing that their repayment amounts will be within their income levels and ability to pay. On the other hand, taxpayers can count on those loans being repaid as they are collected through the IRS. This is a responsible approach to a serious and growing problem for student loan borrowers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND JOE BAMBERG

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to recognize and remember an inspirational leader in our community, Reverend Joe Bamberg. Brother Joe left us Monday morning, May 21, at the age of 91. Brother Joe was a selfless leader who will sorely be missed by his family, congregation and community. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Mary, his wife of 63 years, as well as his three children, one grandchild, two great-grandchildren, and his sister.

In his early years, Brother Joe served as a pastor in his native Alabama hometown and as an Army chaplain during World War II. However, beginning in 1947, Brother Joe became the pastor of First Baptist Church of Milton, where he served for 60 faithful years. Reverend David Spencer, who is the current pastor of First Baptist Church, credits Brother Joe for the constant growth of the congregation, saying "He was such a worker, a tireless person. He got out and found people, won people for the Lord, and built up this church."

Brother Joe not only worked to strengthen his own congregation, but also reached out and led efforts to begin five other churches in the community. The purpose of his ministry was simply to lead others to Christianity, regardless of whom they were and which church they attended.

Brother Joe's humility was one of his greatest qualities. As a pastor, he intentionally put others before himself. To account for his character, his wife, Mary said her husband made sure to stand at the same level as his congregation during the service. No matter the circumstance, "Joe never took a day off and he refused many pay raise offers."

In 1980, Brother Joe graciously stepped down from the pulpit; however, he continued to serve as pastor emeritus. Persistent in his work, he continued to assist his community through visiting and preaching at local hospitals and nursing homes.

Brother Joe was truly a servant to the Milton community. Reverend Spencer most accurately describes the great significance of

Brother Joe's life, saying, "He was a fixture in this county; I cannot overstate the impact he had on this community and on this church." It is certain that the world has lost a great man. May God rest his soul and continue to bless his family.

HONORING DR. RICHARD COE

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Coe for his exceptional career in education and his tremendous contributions to the community. Dr. Coe is retiring after nearly four decades as a teacher and administrator, roles in which he served as an inspiration to both students and colleagues alike.

For the past eight years, Dr. Coe has served as the executive director of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22. Through his leadership and guidance, this organization has improved the quality of education for students all across Bucks County. His steadfast commitment to students and teachers has motivated educators throughout our community to follow his example of compassionate dedication.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Coe has been devoted to ensuring the education of all children, especially those with special needs. He began his career as special education classroom teacher, later becoming an administrator of special education services. Dr. Coe intimately understands our society's fundamental responsibility to educate our youth. This means helping students overcome obstacles, no matter how great or small. Like all great educators, Dr. Coe can see the potential and ability in every student. Each student is equally special and equally important.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Coe will be missed in his role with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. But Dr. Coe will leave behind a legacy that will continue to inspire his colleagues. We can all rest assured that retirement will do nothing to hinder Dr. Coe's enthusiasm for education. Dr. Coe has actively served the community with same eagerness and commitment that he has shown in the classroom. A long list of community organizations have benefited from Dr. Coe's service. Madam Speaker, Dr. Coe has been instrumental in the positive development of our youth and our community, and I would like to thank him on behalf of those whose lives he has touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, while I was absent from the House of Representative last week due to the birth of my son, I would like to state how I would have voted on the following pieces of legislation if I had been able to be present:

H.R. 1773

To limit the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to grant authority to motor car-

riers domiciled in Mexico to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border.

Rollcall No. 349—Yea

H.R. 1585, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Rollcall No. 351—Nay

Rollcall No. 352—Nay

Rollcall No. 355—Yea

Rollcall No. 364—Nay

Rollcall No. 365—Nay

Rollcall No. 366—Nay

Rollcall No. 367—Nay

Rollcall No. 368—Yea

Rollcall No. 369—Yea

Rollcall No. 370—Nay

Rollcall No. 371—Nay

Rollcall No. 372—Yea

Rollcall No. 373—Yea

H.R. 1427

To reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes.

Rollcall No. 378—Yea

Rollcall No. 379—Yea

Rollcall No. 380—Yea

Rollcall No. 381—Nay

Rollcall No. 382—Yea

Rollcall No. 383—Yea.

CONGRATULATING KRISTA BRUNE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Krista Brune of Princeton University. Ms. Brune is a Latin American and Caribbean studies student and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Brune and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO OXFORD CENTRAL
SCHOOL ARCHERY TEAM

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor the archery team at Oxford Central School in Oxford, New Jersey. This excellent team has already proven themselves by winning the state championship in the National Archery in the Schools Program. They will now go on to compete in Louisville, Kentucky for the National Championship.

The National Archery in the Schools Program has shown that students not only enjoy

learning about archery in school but also report higher attendance on days when archery is taught. I am pleased that Oxford Central School has not only embraced this successful program, but also seen such positive results from its implementation.

The Oxford archery team is comprised of 24 outstanding shooters who finished well above their competition in New Jersey. Two of the archers, Kayle Bethune and Sharlette Carey, finished in the top three in the state. They will now go on to compete against archers from 41 other states for the national title. I expect that the Oxford archery team will certainly be a force to be reckoned with during competition.

Their individual performances and overall team accomplishments thus far deserve our most heartfelt congratulations and I wish them the best of luck at the National Championships on June 9th.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, on roll call no. 395 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO THE EUGENE A.
OBREGON AMERICAN LEGION
POST 804 ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS 60TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL
DAY SERVICE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Eugene A. Obregon American Legion Post 804 located in East Los Angeles in my congressional district on the occasion of its 60th Annual Memorial Day Service.

Chartered by Congress in 1919, the American Legion was formed as a patriotic wartime veterans' community service organization. Thirty-five years later, the American Legion Post 804 was chartered locally in East Los Angeles.

Post 804 was named after East Los Angeles war hero Private First Class Eugene Arnold Obregon who was killed in Seoul, Korea in 1950 by enemy forces while in the line of duty. Private Obregon served with Company G, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced) and his death occurred just days before his 20th birthday.

While serving as an ammunition carrier for a machine gun squad, he was pinned down by hostile fire and left his covered position to attend to a fallen Marine, dragging him to safer ground. After seizing the Marine's shoulder rifle, he used his own body as a shield to protect his wounded comrade, firing at the enemy until he was fatally wounded by machine gun fire.

For his courage and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty, Private Obregon was posthumously awarded the United States Congressional Medal of Honor—the highest award

for valor in action against an enemy force bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services.

My father, the late Congressman Edward R. Roybal, himself a World War II veteran, was extremely grateful to Private Obregon and the many other men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. My father was among the founding members of Post 804, and it was always important to him that Memorial Day be observed with a heartfelt and patriotic tribute to the fallen. If my father were with us today, he would be the first to commend Post 804 for its 60-year tradition of organizing these poignant Memorial Day services.

This year, the American Legion Post 804 will be holding an inspirational 24-hour Memorial Day Patriotic Vigil. It will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 27 and conclude on Monday, Memorial Day, May 28 at 10 a.m. The conclusion of the vigil will mark the beginning of the Post's Memorial Day service at Cinco Puntos in East Los Angeles, and the entire community has been invited to participate.

Many of the Post's 150 members who will participate in the service know firsthand the toll that war takes on our brave men and women who serve. The Post's membership includes veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf.

In addition to the Post's Memorial Day service, Post 804 supports and sponsors a number of important community events throughout the year, including Veterans Day services at Atlantic Park in East Los Angeles, a toy drive for the Children of Brooklyn Avenue School, school presentations on the American Flag and Patriotism, and voter registration and blood drives.

The Post is also home to Sons of the American Legion Post 804 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4696, including its Ladies Auxiliary. The Los Angeles Chapter of the Hispanic Airborne Association, the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Association, and the Rice Patties Jumpers Chapter of 187th Regiment also call the Post home.

Madam Speaker, I salute Post 804 for its patriotic and meaningful work in the community and for steadfastly holding true to its basic tenants to safeguard "the principles of justice, freedom and democracy" and "to promote peace and goodwill on earth . . ." Through its efforts in organizing Memorial Day services and its other important community undertakings, the Post serves as a living memorial to our men and women in uniform who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding work of the Eugene A. Obregon American Legion Post 804 on the occasion of its 60th Annual Memorial Day Service at Cinco Puntos in East Los Angeles, and in commending the Post for its dedication to preserving the memories of our brave soldiers to ensure that we "never forget."

CONGRATULATING ZACHARY
BARTER

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents,

Mr. Zachary Barter of Brown University. Mr. Barter is a teaching student and is a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Barter and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 397 through 402. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, and 402.

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING VALPARAISO, INDIANA NOON KIWANIS CLUB VOLUNTEERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend nine exceptional individuals from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding volunteers by the Valparaiso, Indiana Noon Kiwanis Club. These individuals are: Judy Back, Elizabeth "Bette" Brown, Bob Buhle, Chelsey Dunleavy, Michele Hale, Sandy Jenkins, Beverly Overmyer, Pat Puffer, and Rob Thorgren. These honorees will be recognized at the Sixth Annual Valparaiso Kiwanis Club Foundation Volunteer Recognition Program, which will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2007, at the Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso. This annual event recognizes the efforts of outstanding community volunteers and celebrates the spirit of volunteerism in Valparaiso.

Judy Back, of the Salvation Army, has been a constant role model and a true inspiration to her community through her many volunteer efforts. Having served on and chaired many boards throughout the years, Judy has been extremely active in her efforts with the Porter County Angel Tree Program, a program that provides children with gifts and families with food for the holidays. Judy has also been active in many other facets of the Salvation Army, as well as the Purdue North Central Women's Association, of which she was the founding president.

Bette Brown, a retired teacher with the Valparaiso Community Schools, has enriched the lives of countless students over the years. Since her retirement, she has continued to volunteer at Valparaiso High School, serving as front desk person. In this capacity, Bette is

in charge of greeting visitors and guiding them on their visits. In addition, she plays an important role in the safety of the students by making sure that all visitors are authorized and accounted for. Furthermore, Bette has been active in the Valparaiso Organization for Learning and Teaching Seniors (VOLTS) program, as well as the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps, a program aimed at introducing children to classical music.

Bob Buhle has served in many capacities for the Hilltop Neighborhood House for several years, including Board President and Vice President. In addition, he has been instrumental in the construction of the Hilltop Community Health Center, as well as a dedicated member of the organization's Board Development Committee and Finance and Audit Committee. Not only has Bob dedicated himself to Hilltop, he has also donated much of his time and efforts to Habitat for Humanity.

Chelsey Dunleavy, a peer tutor in the Life Skills Program at Valparaiso High School, has served as President of the HOPE Club for the past two years. As a volunteer in the Life Skills Program, Chelsey devotes her spare time to helping students with special needs. As President of the HOPE Club, she plans and supervises activities and events and does so in a manner that allows everyone to participate. Chelsey is also very active in her church, where she teaches Sunday school, as well as in various other programs at Valparaiso High School. In performing any tasks, Chelsey is known for her ability to excel far beyond any expectations, and more impressively, to do so without expecting anything in return.

An avid runner, Michele Hale, has been a volunteer with Opportunity Enterprises for the past seven years. Pairing her love for long-distance running with her commitment to serve her community, Michele leads the Opportunity Enterprises' Lake County Marathon Training Team and also serves as the organizer for an annual charity bike run. Michele also serves as President of the Calumet Region Striders and contributes much of her efforts to the Cancer Foundation, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and Saint Jude's Children's Hospital.

Sandy Jenkins, a volunteer for the Porter Auxiliary, has contributed countless hours to the organization and the people it serves. While her primary duty is to provide information for visitors at the front desk, Sandy has always welcomed additional responsibilities with the Auxiliary and has served in a secretarial capacity and in public relations as well. For her efforts and her unwavering dedication to the Porter Auxiliary, Sandy has even been featured in the Stay Healthy magazine.

A volunteer with the Independent Cat Society, Beverly Overmyer has fully dedicated herself to the organization. Among other roles, Beverly has served on the Board of Directors, as Corresponding Secretary, writer for the Newsletter, room parent, co-chair of the public relations committee, and in many fundraising capacities. Though extremely committed to the Independent Cat Society, Beverly also finds time to volunteer for the Taltree Arboretum, where she serves as an instructor and prepares materials for field trips, and is very active in the Kankakee Valley Historical Society.

Pat Puffer is being honored for her many efforts in the community, most notably, her work with the Porter-Stark Services Foundation.

Pat has served the foundation in various capacities, such as board member and sponsorship and silent auction committee member for the Art of Healing Gala. Passionate about her service to the community, Pat has been involved not only with Porter-Starke, but with numerous other organizations and fundraising efforts, including: the Valparaiso Ethics Committee, Parkinson Style Show, American Heart Association, Valparaiso YMCA, Children's Museum of Valparaiso, United Way of Porter County, Crisis Center, Boys and Girls Club, American Cancer Society, and Special Kids Special Needs, to name a few.

Rob Thorgren has been a volunteer with the Valparaiso YMCA for the past five years. A leader within the organization and his community, Rob has served in many capacities with the YMCA. He has served on the Board of Directors, as a Strong Kids Campaigner, and as a special events volunteer. Additionally, he has served as a member of the Capital Campaign Development Committee and the Building Committee for the new Valparaiso Family YMCA.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding individuals on their recognition as honored volunteers by the Valparaiso Kiwanis Club Foundation. Their years of service and dedication have played a major role in shaping the future of Northwest Indiana, and each of the honorees is truly an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH COHN

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fine work of Deborah Cohn, Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), for her leadership in promoting government telework. As a result of her ingenuity and perseverance with this program, Ms. Cohn spearheaded the development of the USPTO's telework program at a time when telework was unconventional, and her efforts have paid off as the program is among the most successful telework programs within the Federal workforce.

This year, the Trademark Work at Home (TWAH) program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Established in March of 1997, TWAH began as a pilot program with 18 telework volunteers. Today, TWAH is the most successful and progressive program in the Federal Government, involving 85 percent of eligible trademark examining attorneys, who work 4 days per week at home.

The USPTO, located in my congressional district in Alexandria, VA, has received many distinguished awards for opening doors to its telework program. These include the most recent 2007 Work-Life Innovative Excellence Award from the Alliance for Work-Life Progress—the highest honor offered by the organization, which was created to showcase programs and policies that demonstrate excellence in promoting work-life effectiveness while achieving institutional goals. Other notable awards include those from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the

Telework Exchange, the MidAtlantic Telework Advisory Council, and the International Telework Association and Council.

The Trademark telework program is a successful model for other governmental agencies. Combining management by objective with hoteling results in proven space and related cost savings for the agency. The program also demonstrates that flexibility of schedules and location enables employees to maximize their working efficiency, which is reflected in production gains by its participants and the Office. The extremely low attrition rate experienced by the TWAH participants shows that agencies facing recruitment and retention problems would be well-served by offering telecommuting options, similar to those of the USPTO, to attract and retain qualified workers.

I have been a longtime advocate of commuter friendly policies such as telecommuting. Proven benefits include helping to offset the high price of gasoline, continuity of operations in the case of a future threat or disaster, improved air quality, reduction in traffic congestion, increased employee productivity and work quality, improved employee morale, and employee cost savings. As the Nation's largest employer, the Federal Government should be the leader in telework policy. The USPTO serves as the gold standard for the Federal Government thanks to the efforts of Deborah Cohn.

Ms. Deborah Cohn is a graduate of The American University and George Mason University School of Law. She began her career at the USPTO in 1983 as a trademark examining attorney, was promoted to senior attorney and then managing attorney, and then joined the Senior Executive Service as a Trademark Law Office Director in 2001. Ms. Cohn was named Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations in 2005 whereby she currently oversees the examination and processing of applications throughout the trademark operation and works with other USPTO business units in achieving agency goals.

Throughout her legal career at the USPTO, Ms. Cohn has been involved in work-life improvement initiatives. She is a former Council of Excellence in Government fellow where she first began developing the TWAH program. Ms. Cohn is a sought after resource, speaker, and expert on the development and management of telework programs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Ms. Cohn's efforts in making the USPTO's telework program the most successful program within the Federal Government. I also ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Trademark Work at Home program.

CONGRATULATING THE AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO THE UNITED STATES, MR. ALEXANDROS MALLIAS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ambassador of Greece to the United States, Mr. Alexandros Mallias, who was recently honored by the B'nai B'rith International Center for Jewish Culture for his commitment to advancing Jewish-Greek relations.

As part of its "Odyssey of the Jews of Greece" series of cultural events, B'nai B'rith International recognized the efforts of Ambassador Mallias in working with American Jewish organizations to promote a closer relationship between Greece and Israel. B'nai B'rith Executive Vice President Dan Mariaschin expressed the organization's gratitude to Ambassador Mallias and highlighted the long history of the Jewish people in Greece.

On a personal note, my own family was part of that history. My great grandparents and maternal grandmother emigrated from Greece to the United States, and many of those family members they left behind in the Jewish community of Thessaloniki perished at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust.

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Mallias, and insert his remarks into the RECORD.

(A) RELATIONS BETWEEN GREEKS AND JEWS THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Greeks and Jews are connected by history, geography, monotheistic religions, philosophy, trade, social sciences, arts.

The two peoples have been interacting since the beginning of recorded history. There is recorded presence of Jews in the Greek world, what Jews first named Gentiles, centuries before Christ. The presence of Jewish community in Thessaloniki, the capital of Macedonia, goes back to the 2nd century BC.

The most important sites of Christianity in the Holy Land are under the supervision of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. It is a unique and the most ancient surviving institution on earth.

Over the years, Greece has forged strong ties with Israel. Bilateral relations are at a very good level. Political, economic and cultural relations have gained their own dynamic.

(B) HOLOCAUST

During the Second World War, Greek Jews shared the fate of their fellow Jews all over the continent in the hands of the Third Reich.

According to the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece: "When, during the German occupation, the hateful campaign against the Jews started, their Christian compatriots showed compassion and solidarity."

Archbishop of Greece Damaskinos declared: "We are all Jews." He filed to the German Authorities 2 petitions asking them to stop the persecution of the Jews. The petitions were undersigned by 29 leading cultural institutions and professional bodies of the country, including the Academy of Athens. Many ordinary Greeks in rural Greece and big cities risked their lives and the lives of their families by sheltering Greek Jews.

Fortunately, the decimated Greek Jewish community with the assistance of the state and energized by its unique spiritual inheritance survived the massacre of the Holocaust. Today the Greek Jews have reclaimed their rightful position among the most dynamic and progressive segments of the Greek society.

The message of the Holocaust: Never Again.

(C) INDICATIVE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GREEK STATE.

First post World War II Greek Government was the first among European countries to pass legislation for the restitution of the property confiscated by the German occupation Forces. Unclaimed property did not revert to the state but was given to the Jewish Community.

Designation by Law 3218/2004 of the 27th of January as the day of Remembrance of the

Holocaust. Legislation was praised by many members of the US Congress.

Greece became a full member of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (Cracow Session 12–18 November 2005).

Memorials have been erected in many cities throughout Greece.

Public TV often shows documentaries and historical series on the Holocaust.

Since school year 2005–2006, the Holocaust is included in the curriculum of the third grade Lyceum (age 17–18 years old) entitled “War crimes—the Holocaust” and students are tested at the end of the school year.

An extensive revision of textbooks is being undertaken by the Pedagogical Institute. A new textbook and teachers’ guidelines will be issued next year. Textbooks of primary and secondary education are also being revised.

(D) HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE

Greece has firmly condemned pronouncements by the Iranian President calling for Israel to be wiped-off the map and denying the indisputable fact of the Holocaust. How would anyone deny this fact when the Greek-Jewish community almost vanished during the German occupation of Greece?

The unique historic perspective of the Jewish people guarantees that the issue of Macedonia is well understood. After all, one of the most ancient and flourishing Greek-Jewish communities is in Thessaloniki. Jews from Macedonia who after WW II emigrated to Israel or the US are proud for their Greek inheritance.

History transcends national borders. It belongs to all of us. Political differences cannot justify the distortion of history in any form. Greeks and Jews understand that.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF ARMY SPECIALIST CASEY W. NASH

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Army Specialist Casey W. Nash, who died the eighteenth of May two-thousand seven in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Specialist Nash and two other soldiers were killed by an improvised explosive device in Tahrir, Iraq. He died of serious injuries when the roadside-improvised explosive device detonated near his unit. Specialist Nash enlisted in the Army in February 2003, shortly after graduating from Eastern Technical High School, where he played football. Casey was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Casey served as a fire support specialist and his duties included mapping coordinates and driving a Humvee. He was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Casey Nash was born in Pasadena, Texas, and moved to Middle River, Maryland with his family when he was a child. He attended Victory Villa Elementary School and Middle River Middle School before attending Eastern Technical High School. Casey moved to Essex, Maryland with his mother, Sandra Nash, and his sister while he was in high school.

The Eastern Technical High School alumnus is succeeded by his father, Lewis Nash, his mother, Ms. Sandra L. Nash, his sister, Sara

Nash, and many family members in Middle River and Essex, Maryland.

Madam Speaker, today I ask that you join with me in honoring the life of a man truly dedicated to serving his Country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I regret that I did not vote on rollcall vote No. 400, on May 22, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted: “Yea” on rollcall No. 400 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2399, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to combat the crime of alien smuggling and related activities and for other purposes.

IN TRIBUTE TO TERESA KIRKEENG-KINCAID

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid, a remarkable civil servant who dedicated her entire career to making her community, the Illinois River basin, the Upper Mississippi River Region and her Nation a better place. Teresa passed away last week at the young age of 48, after a courageous battle against cancer. Her legacy, however, will continue long into the future. Teresa dedicated her entire professional life to working for the Federal Government. I have long believed that government service is a high and important calling. The hours are often long, the pressures are great, and the monetary compensation is frequently lower than what is available in the private sector. Teresa was one of those individuals who was more concerned with making a difference than making a fortune. Teresa joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer with the Rock Island District in 1981, and continued with the Corps for 26 years. In that time, she served in many roles, including Assistant Chief of the Planning, Program and Project Management Division.

During her two and a half decades of service, Teresa earned a reputation on the Illinois River basin, the Upper Mississippi Region and across the Nation as a public servant of great dedication and integrity. She played a leadership role in formulating navigation, flood damage, and ecosystem restoration projects throughout the entire Upper Mississippi River basin. She was the “go to person” throughout the Corps of Engineers on numerous planning issues. The team she led reestablished the Corps’ Planning Associates program to train future planners for the Corps, a legacy that will last for many decades.

I had the occasion to meet Teresa several times, and know the very high regard in which she was held by her co-workers, her countless friends, and her loving family. It is my hope they will take solace in the fact that through more than two decades of doing the day-to-

day work of democracy, Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid truly earned the title of “hero.”

“DEAMONTE’S LAW,” H.R. 2371

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce that I have introduced “Deamonte’s Law,” H.R. 2371, a bill to establish a dental home for every American child by increasing dental services in community health centers and training more individuals in pediatric dentistry.

The legislation is named for Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Maryland boy who died on February 25, 2007, when a tooth infection spread to his brain. A routine dental checkup might have saved his life, but Deamonte was poor and homeless and he did not have access to a dentist.

When I learned of this senseless tragedy, I was deeply shaken. I simply cannot comprehend how, in this country where we have sent a man to the moon, we let a little boy’s teeth rot so badly that his infection became fatal.

I often say that as adults, we have a responsibility to provide for and protect our children—and we failed to meet that responsibility for little Deamonte.

I think we all should be ashamed by that fact. I know I am.

That is why I have made a commitment to addressing this issue from every angle. I knew that if Deamonte was suffering in my home state of Maryland, other little boys and girls like him were probably also suffering.

To be clear, Deamonte’s case was rare and extreme; however, even the most casual investigation reveals that children across the country are living with painful, untreated tooth decay, many of them dangerously close to acquiring life-threatening infections.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that tooth decay in baby teeth has increased 15 percent among United States toddlers and preschoolers 2 to 5 years old, between 1988 to 1994 and 1994 to 2004;

Tooth decay is the single most common childhood chronic disease, and it disproportionately affects poor and minority children;

Eighty percent of dental decay occurs in just 25 percent of children; and

Parents are three times more likely to report that their children’s dental needs are unmet, when compared with general medical care needs.

A silent epidemic of dental disease is plaguing our children, and our inability to address this issue has had horrifying effects.

That is why I have introduced “Deamonte’s Law,” H.R. 2371, which would address two critical factors contributing to the inability of children like Deamonte to access a dentist:

“Deamonte’s Law” would ensure that children like Deamonte have access to dental services in the communities where they live. Community health centers provide a health safety net to underserved areas, such as

rural and urban communities; however, an estimated 42 percent have gaps in their capacity to provide dental care. "Deamonte's Law" would address this issue by establishing a 5-year, \$5 million pilot program to provide funds for dentists, equipment and construction for dental services at community health centers. The program would also provide support for contractual relationships between centers and private practice dentists.

"Deamonte's Law" would also address the dentist shortage. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that there is a shortage of 4,650 dentists—and pediatric dentists are even more scarce. "Deamonte's Law" would address this issue by establishing a 5-year, \$5 million pilot program to enhance training and academic programs in pediatric dentistry, recruit and train dentists to study pediatrics, and provide continuing education for practicing dentists.

The legislation is endorsed by the American Dental Association.

I was joined in introducing this legislation by my colleagues, Chairman HENRY A. WAXMAN of California and Chairman DENNIS KUCINICH of Ohio.

I want to thank both Congressmen for their leadership and dedication to this issue.

On May 2, 2007, at my request, we conducted an oversight hearing entitled, "Evaluating Pediatric Dental Care under Medicaid" to investigate Deamonte Driver's death.

At the hearing, it became apparent that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has categorically failed to meet its oversight responsibilities with regard to ensuring that state health departments, and the managed care organizations that they contract with, are in compliance with the law.

Section 1905(r)(3) of the Social Security Act ensures that every Medicaid-eligible child will have access to medically necessary dental care under the early and periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment (EPSDT) provision. However, it is evident from our investigation that this has not been the case.

That is why Chairman KUCINICH and I sent letters to CMS Director Dennis Smith and Health and Human Services (HHS) Department Secretary Michael Leavitt to ensure that they are fulfilling their statutory obligation to provide comprehensive dental care to every Medicaid-eligible child.

I remain committed to addressing this problem from every angle, and I would urge all my colleagues to join me by supporting "Deamonte's Law," H.R. 2371.

I want to thank Representatives MILLER, COHEN, GRIJALVA, SERRANO, MCCOLLUM and PAYNE for already cosponsoring the legislation, and I would urge all of my colleagues to join them.

Children's lives are at stake. I can think of no better reason to act with a great sense of urgency.

TRIBUTE TO JESUS ARMAS—HAYWARD CITY MANAGER
EXTRAORDINAIRE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jesus Armas, City Manager of Hayward, CA. Mr. Armas is ending his long and distinguished career with the City of Hayward at the end of June 2007. Mr. Armas, who has been associated with the City for nearly 20 years, was initially Assistant City Manager and since 1993 has held the position of City Manager.

During his tenure, Mr. Armas has assisted the City Council in addressing a number of issues that were outstanding at the time of his appointment as City Manager. Among his first tasks was to help the City Council address the financial challenges facing the City. The City was experiencing declining revenues and a reduction in its fund balance. Working with department heads and with the cooperation and assistance of employees and their associations or unions, various cost-saving measures were presented and adopted by the Council, resulting in a balanced budget. This spirit of cooperation among all members of the organization was employed once again a decade later when a downturn in the economy required another belt tightening.

Mr. Armas has initiated and implemented a number of significant changes, which have made Hayward a better place in which to live and work. Under the City Council's direction, he initiated projects that dramatically transformed downtown Hayward. Construction of a new award-winning City Hall served as a catalyst for significant public and private sector investments in the downtown area. Housing and retail development continue at a fast pace. While many communities in the Bay Area talked about the concept of transit-oriented development, Hayward went beyond the talking stage and caused the concept to become a reality. Mr. Armas describes the transformation of downtown as something he is especially proud of.

Jesus Armas has been the force and vision behind many projects that have enhanced the social, financial and environmental well-being of the City of Hayward. In reflecting on his tenure, Mr. Armas said that beyond the bricks and mortar, what is noteworthy has been the opportunity to work in a diverse community, where differences involving race, ethnicity and languages, are embraced and seen as positive rather than negatives aspects of the community.

Mr. Armas states "I will be eternally grateful to Hayward residents for allowing me to experience a rewarding and enriching professional career." I join the City of Hayward, CA in expressing our profound appreciation to Mr. Armas for his exemplary commitment and dedicated public service.

HONORING THE STATE OF TEXAS
FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
NATION'S CIVIL SPACE PROGRAM

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, a resolution honoring the State of Texas for its contributions to the Nation's civil space program.

Whereas the Johnson Space Center (JSC), originally established as the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas in 1961 and later renamed in honor of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1973, continues to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) efforts in human space exploration;

Whereas JSC Houston is the home of NASA's Mission Control, the Astronaut Corps, and is the premier center for our nation's human space flight and related scientific and medical research efforts;

Whereas JSC's team of dedicated professionals has made advances in science, technology, engineering and medicine that enable us to explore our world and universe as never before, and to derive unparalleled benefits from that exploration;

Whereas JSC currently employs over 3,200 civil servants that include the NASA astronaut corps and over 12,000 contractor employees, which makes a significant positive economic impact on both the state of Texas and the city of Houston;

Whereas NASA's Explorer School program in Texas brings together educators, administrators, students and families in sustained involvement with NASA's education programs and provides grants to schools to support the purchase of technology tools, online services and in-service support for the integration of technology applications to engage students in advanced science and mathematics investigations;

Whereas NASA's next mission—Space Shuttle Mission STS-117—is scheduled to launch this summer and honors the state of Texas by having 3 hometown astronauts aboard Mission Specialist James F. Reilly of Mesquite and Mission Specialists Patrick G. Forrester and John D. Olivas, both of El Paso; and

Whereas native Texans and Astronauts Robert S. Kimbrough and Shannon Walker have qualified for future space flights as mission specialists, Astronaut Timothy L. Kopra is currently in training at JSC for future flight assignments, Astronaut Michael E. Fossum has flown 1 space flight, and Astronaut Kenneth D. Cockrell has flown on 5 space flights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) Recognize these remarkable achievements to the nation's Civil Space Program by the State of Texas and its residents; and

(2) Congratulate NASA employees, astronauts, students, and teachers, for their ongoing contributions to the advancement of United States engineering, scientific, and aeronautic capacity, ensuring a brighter and stronger future for this Nation.

RECOGNIZING JAMES HATLER FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Hatler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 214, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Hatler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

10TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN MILITARY
WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the entire Women's Caucus, Co-Chairs LOIS CAPPS and CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS and my co-Vice Chair, MARY FALLIN, to honor four women who have served our Nation with honor and distinction. Today, the 10th Annual Women in Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus, was held at Arlington Cemetery. The purpose is to honor our Nation's servicewomen and women veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember the women who have died in service to the United States of America.

SFC Barbara Clavijo, United States Army, distinguished herself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States as the Multi-National Division Baghdad Force Protection Vulnerability Assessment Team NCOIC, 4th Infantry Division, Camp Liberty, Iraq from December 2, 2005–November 15, 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While assigned as the Multi-National Division Baghdad Vulnerability Assessment Team NCOIC, SFC Clavijo was directly responsible for the development and execution of the Division's force protection program. Without hesitation and with great enthusiasm, and despite the inherent threats and dangers, she continuously navigated the MND-B's battle space to conduct vulnerability assessments. These assessments required SFC Clavijo to plan, coordinate, and participate in over 125 ground and air movements in support of these missions. During the course of these assessments she was forced to travel many routes known to be covered with Improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs. During one of these assessments she had the unlucky fortune to have her vehicle targeted by an IED. For this

reason she was awarded the Combat Action Badge. Her awards also include the Bronze Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Drill Sergeant Badge, and Combat Action Badge. I am truly pleased to honor SFC Barbara Clavijo for her service and dedication.

Master Chief Ann L. Tubbs began her career with the U.S. Coast Guard in July 1980 when she graduated from the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, New Jersey and was assigned to Coast Guard Station Jonesport in West Jonesport, ME. Later, she was assigned aboard the Coast Guard icebreaker *Glacier* where she made 2 trips to Antarctica as part of Operation Deep Freeze. After leaving *Glacier*, Master Chief Tubbs spent 2 years in Mobile, AL., as a small boat engineer running search and rescue boats in the Gulf of Mexico.

In August 2001, she accepted an active duty position in the Office of Reserve Affairs at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC. In 2002, she advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer and was assigned as the Enlisted Gender Policy Advisor to the Commandant. She advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer on January 1, 2005. She assumed her current job as Special Assistant to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard in October of 2006. Master Chief Tubbs' military awards include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal and the Reserve Good Conduct Medal, and the Antarctic Service Medal. I am so pleased to recognize Master Chief Tubbs today.

SSGT Cassie L. Lucero began her career with the Marines in 1998. During her career in the Marines, she has been decorated with numerous medals, including the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, three Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and three Sea Service Deployment Awards. It is my pleasure to honor SSGT. Cassie L. Lucero for her service.

CMSGT and Barbara S. Taylor is the Chief of Supply for the United States Air Force Band, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. Originally from Kingsport, TN, her military career began in 1982. CMSGT Barbara S. Taylor was assigned to the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. There, she was both a euphonium and vocal soloist. She was the band's Director of Operations from October 1995 until her reassignment to the United States Air Force Band in January 1997. In 1993 and 1996, Chief Taylor was named the Air Combat Command Band's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and in February 1997 she was named the Air Combat Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for the band career field. Chief Taylor was also awarded the Commandant's Award at both the Airman Leadership School and the

Noncommissioned Officers Academy. I am so honored to recognize Chief Taylor for her dedication to the United States.

Madam Speaker, it is with great admiration and pride that the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues honors these four servicewomen and their extraordinary accomplishments. In a time when our military faces especially difficult challenges both at home and abroad, these four women have shown exceptional courage, ability and loyalty to the Armed Services of the United States of America. They are true shining examples of the numerous women serving in our military today.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CAPTAIN
PETER CHARLES
SIGUENZA, USMC (RET)

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Captain Peter Charles Siguenza, United States Marine Corps (Retired), who passed away on May 17, 2007, just two days after his 87th birthday. He was the first Chamorro to be commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps. Peter was also a well known public figure on Guam, and a genuinely fine and honest man who consistently gave of himself in service to his community and his fellow Marines. The outpouring of public condolences and accolades in my home district following the news of Peter's passing is indicative of the respect, admiration, and affection the people of Guam had for Peter and his service to his country.

A person's record of military and community service can be extensive and very impressive, but records do not convey the admiration or depth of emotion of the recipients of the service. Peter C. Siguenza was born on May 15, 1920, the second of nine children born to the late Jose and Consolacion Mendiola Siguenza. He attended Seaton Schroeder Junior High School in Hagåtña and graduated from Coronado High School in Coronado, California. He attended San Diego State College for 2 years, from 1940–1942. After the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into war, Peter, like thousands of young men, enlisted in the Armed Forces. Peter volunteered for the Marine Corps. After completing boot camp, he was assigned to the Third Marine Division. He saw action in New Zealand, Guadalcanal, and Bougainville. The division was then ordered to the Marianas to recapture Guam.

Peter was on board the USS *Dupage*, where he and his fellow Marines watched the intense pre-invasion bombardment of the island. He often spoke about how difficult it was to witness the bombing knowing his family was somewhere on the island, but not knowing whether they were safe.

Peter was among those destined to hit the beach at Asan, Guam, and begin the retaking of the island from the Imperial Army of Japan. But he was ordered away from the battle to attend Officer Candidate School before the landing occurred. Peter returned to Guam as a second lieutenant and participated in post-invasion operations to secure the island. He remained on Guam at the end of the war and was assigned to Island Command in 1946.

Peter joined the Marine Corps Reserves and was assigned to the 12th Reserve District in San Francisco after his discharge from active duty. Upon returning to civilian life, Peter returned and completed college, earning a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College in Moraga, California, in 1949. He then earned a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California at Los Angeles in 1955. In 2005, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Guam.

On September 2, 1950, Peter married his sweetheart, Barbara Bordallo. They had three children: Peter, Monica, and Donna.

After retiring as a captain from the Marine Corps Reserves, Peter went to work for the Government of Guam, serving as director of Labor and Personnel under Governors Carlton S. Skinner, Ford Q. Elvidge and Richard B. Lowe. He then entered into federal service and worked at posts throughout the United States. He also served as a personnel management specialist and appeals and grievance examiner with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe and the Pacific, and as a personnel management and labor relations specialist on the director's staff. After retiring from federal service, Peter went to work as personnel director for Jones and Guerrero Company, Inc., from 1980–1986.

In addition to his military, government, and private sector careers, Peter always found time to serve his community. He served as chairman of the University of Guam's Board of Regents; was on the Board of Trustees of the Guam Community College; was a member and past president of the Guam Chapter of the Third Marine Division Association, the National Association of Federal Employees, the Guam Territorial Society of Washington, D.C., a member and past vice president of the Young Men's League of Guam, and member of the St. Jude Assembly of the Knights of Columbus.

Peter C. Siguenza passed away just 5 days after the passing of former Senator Paul J. Bordallo on May 12, 2007. Both men were my brothers-in-law. The entire Bordallo family mourns the passing of two of its finest members. Peter was a proud and life long Marine, a war hero, a diligent public servant at both the federal and local government levels, a valued professional in the private sector, a devoted Catholic, and an upstanding citizen.

My prayers and condolences are with his wife, Bobbie; his son, Peter C. Siguenza, Jr., the retired chief justice of the Supreme Court of Guam; his daughters and sons-in-law, Monica and Michael Sphar and Donna and Joel Rigler; his grandchildren, Dawn, David, Isaac, and Nathaniel; his siblings, Olivia S. Guerrero, Eduardo C. Siguenza, and Antonio C. Siguenza, and with his other Bordallo brothers- and sisters-in-law.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that May is Mental Health Month. I would also like to thank those who have dedicated their lives to mental healthcare.

Now more than ever, we must commit ourselves to full mental health parity. An estimated 26 percent of Americans between the ages 18 and older suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year. This means that 57.7 million people currently suffer from a mental disorder. Millions who suffer from serious, debilitating, and life altering mental disorders. Mental disorders such as Alzheimer's, Schizophrenia and Bi-Polar Disorder. Nearly two thirds of all people with diagnosable mental disorders do not seek treatment.

The burden of mental illness on health and productivity amongst society in the United States has been underestimated. A massive study conducted by the World Health Organization, The World Bank, and Harvard University, discovered that mental illness, accounts for over 15 percent of the burden of disease in market economies, such as the United States. This is more than the burden caused by cancers.

I am grateful to the Committee on Education and the Workforce for reauthorizing the Older Americans Act. The Older Americans Act supports the mental health needs of the elderly. Nearly 236 elderly people per 100,000 suffer from a mental illness. The highest suicide rate in America is among those aged 65 and older. Elderly men are the demographic area that is most likely to commit suicide. Specifically, I want to ensure that senior citizens have access to mental health services in their respective communities or wherever they receive primary health care services. I would like to commend the Honorable PATRICK KENNEDY for his efforts in providing mental health parity in Medicare. I am pleased that we are beginning to make some headway on this important issue.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, I missed recorded votes due to familial obligations. Please let the record show that had I been here, I would have voted the following way: Roll No. 386—"yea;" roll No. 387—"yea;" roll No. 388—"yea;" roll No. 389—"yea;" roll No. 390—"yea;" roll No. 391—"yea;" roll No. 392—"yea;" roll No. 393—"yea;" roll No. 394—"yea;" roll No. 395—"yea;" roll No. 396—"nay;" roll No. 397—"yea;" roll No. 398—"yea;" roll No. 399—"yea;" roll No. 400—"yea;" roll No. 401—"yea;" roll No. 402—"nay."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 5

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To continue hearings to examine the Department of Justice politicizing the hiring and firing of United States Attorneys, focusing on preserving prosecutorial independence.

SD-226

JUNE 6

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine patent reform, focusing on the future of American innovation.

SD-226

JUNE 7

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 453, to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Space, Aeronautics, and Related Agencies
Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings with the House Science and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight to examine the investigation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Inspector General.

SR-253

JUNE 12

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism
Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States trade relations with China.

SR-253

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, focusing on cooperation on employment issues.

SD-562